PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS. FEARLESS VIEWS

END OF RAMADAN A boy looks confused while adults pray, celebrating the start of Eid'l Fitr in Quiapo City. The 3-day fest, which begins after the sighting of a new crescent moon, marks the end of the fasting month of Ramadan, during which devout Muslims abstain from food, drink, smoking and sex from dawn to dusk. (Story on Page A7)

'Watch out for Friday 3 p.m. habit' at Customs

By Cathy Yamson

WHISTLE explores Angeles. Al- ...ners are afraid of the customs bureau should monitor the so-called "in- ...mation" among corrupt officials and employees every Friday at 3 p.m. at the port area, Sen. Panfilo Lacson said yesterday.

Only valid tax information gang is described as any announcement of the Bureau of Customs (BOC) de- clare that the agency is indeed no- ...ruption-free, the senator said.

Lacson said it was an open secret ...among customs insiders that cor- ...rupt officials and members of the fin- ...ancial scandal "incinerators in the area" to collect their share from bribes given by unscrupulous businessmen who want to expedite the release of their imports.

"This is the reason why it is diffi- ...cult to get in touch with most cus- ...toms officials on Fridays," he said. "All roads lead to the guy just so they can collect their share in this form of institutionalized corruption."

Tails of Alvarez's replacement had

WATCH in 1

Taipans join P-Noy trip

US envoy 'dismal failure' for hit on Cory

By Jerry E. Esplanada

FORMER US Ambassador Kristie Kenney was "well-nav- ...igated in the Philippines and was reasonably sociable. Unlike his distinguished predecessors, however, she was a dismal fail- ...ure in helping the Filipinos de- ...fend our democracy."

So said former Secretary Al- ...fredo del Rosario yesterday in a text message to the Inquirer, where he described as "more unfortunate" Kenney's criticism of the late President Corazon Aquino in a 2009 cable to the US Department of State.

In the unclassified memo that was released by WikiLeaks, the online whistle-blower, Kenney called Aquino an "icon of

CLICK for 1A

RED CARPET TO CHINA President Aquino troops the line during the send-off ceremony at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on Tuesday night before boarding a Philippine Airlines special flight PR001 for a five-day state visit to the People's Republic of China.

Up to $7B expected deals from visit to China

By Norman Bordadora

BEIJING—Underlining the trade and invest- ...ment slant of his state visit to China, President Aquino arrived here with a 270-strong busi- ...ness delegation, including the Philippines' top industry leaders.

It is the biggest business con- ...tingent of Mr. Aquino's foreign trips.

John Gokongwei, Jr., founder and chair emeritus of JG Sum- ...mit Holdings, Lucio Tan, founder and chair of the group of companies that bears his name, George Ty, chair of Metrobank, and Tony Tan Caktiong, chair of Jollibee Foods Corp. are among the most no- ...table names with the delega- ...tion.

Others include Manuel V. Pangilinan, chair of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Ramon ang, president and CEO

TAPANG in 1

P-Noy hopes visit will ease Spratlys row / A5

Where's Gadhafi? Wife, 3 children in Algeria

GAO, Mali—Moammar Gad- ...hafi's uncle of Jamahi on the in- ...ternational scene is Par thinking but no the Malian town of Gao, residents say they might be happy to welcome the fugi- ...tive Libyan leader.

"Let Gadhafi come here. We will offer him food and board," said a resident in Gao, the im- ...poverished Sahelian country's main eastern hub.

A school headmaster linked Gadhafi's more nervous when asked if he would open his home to Gadhafi for asylum. Mali had long benefited from the maverick leader's largesse and could not have him on its soil.

"I agree to welcome Gadhafi, but we are ungrateful people. He opened his wallet to us Africans. Today he is experienc- ...ing difficult times, we should not forget him," he said.

Gadhafi's whereabouts re- ...mained unknown, but the Alge- ...rian government said that his wife and three children had fled Libya to exile, firm evidence that the longtime leader had lost his grip on his country.

Libyan rebels said that south- ...ern Gadhafi's son, slain military commander Khamis, was prob- ...ably killed in battle on Saturday near the town of Tarhouna, 90 kilometers southeast of the Libyan capital of Tripoli, de- ...

WORLD in A10

Prince Jacob signals end of Libya's 'dark age' / A10

CBCP to World Youth Day 'TNTs': Go home

By Philip C. Tubeza

DRIVE over to not going TNT, to other words, please come home.

An official of the Catholic Bish- ...ops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) yesterday appealed to Fili- ...pino delegates who attended the recent World Youth Day in Madrid, Spain, and who are still in Europe to make sure they return home and not try to stay undocu- ...

CBCP in A6

RAMON MAGSAYSAY AWARDEES

TRIUMPHANT

Passing ultimate test: Abduction by gunmen

By DJ Yap

BROOKESIAN social worker Ei- ...lleanpaul faced what she called her "ultimate test" in 2009 when gunmen abducted her and her husband while they were scouting for a place to build a rice-hydropower plant in the jungles of Ifeak.

The once-rebellious province was still reeling from the ter- ...rors of the 2004 election, and the couple had sought to reach former separatist rebels the principles of kindness be- ...fore they began to flood the struggling local economy.

Ilaneapaul, one of the 2011

READING in A17

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WORLD
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BUSINESS
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WORLD
Panel: US STD research killed 83 in Guatemala / A25

LIFESTYLE
What awaits you and your child at good old Museo Pambata / C1

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

6/49 30 24 / 10 29 / 16 3
JUMBO 6/55 9 3 7 / 1 5 6 / 5 9 8
NIK DIGIT 9 5 5 4 0 9
EZ2 LUZ/VIS-MIN 7 12 27 29 30 38
P21,566,666.40
SUPER LOTTO 6/49 6 12 13 16 37 43
P16,000,000.00

Binay: No evidence vs De Castro

By Nancy Carvajal and Cathy Yamsuan

VICE president and concurrent chair of the Housing Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) Jejomar Binay said there's no evidence that would link his predecessor former vice president Noli de Castro to the multibillion-peso anomalies at the Home Development Mutual Fund, also known as Pag-ibig Fund, involving a housing firm.

Binay made the statement in a news briefing yesterday at the VIP lounge of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport terminal 2, upon his arrival from the United States where he attended a two-week course on Senior Executives in National and International Security (SES) at Harvard University in Boston, Massachusetts.

"The evidence that we have at the moment do not link him (De Castro) to the anomaly. We have no evidence," Binay said.

Sorge: Dwarning

Binay was reacting to queries why he (Castro) who was then chair of Pag-Ibig Fund was not among those charged in court for the questionable multibillion loans obtained by Globe Asiapinas Realty Holdings Corp. owned by Delfin Lee.

"When it was promoted to him, by the board it could have been under the presumption that it has already been processed," he said.

Sen. Gregorio Honasan II earlier assured that De Castro, in behalf of the Pag-Ibig board of the time it approved Globe Asiapinas's loans applications, could be liable for being part of the body that approved the loans.

"That assumed? For could not let that go through board approval...There are several processes, internal rules that you have to follow as any financial organization, in any organization before giving the go-signal by a team that big," he said.

Gamboa said that loopholes in the

DE CASTRO

banking system that allowed Globe Asiapinas to acquire P12 billion loans must be addressed by legislation to prevent a repeat.

Tighter bank rules

One measure being eyed by the finance committee on banks, financial institutions and insurance that Gamboa chairs is the implementation of stricter monitoring requirements for the processing of huge developer loans at Pag-Ibig where Globe Asiapinas' loans were obtained.

"We would also need tighter banking rules on due diligence and collection," Gamboa said.

He said the committee was now in the process of drafting a report that would recommend the lists under that allowed Globe Asiapinas to obtain huge loans under irregular circumstances.

However, Gamboa said he was still waiting for input from Pag-Ibig officials to submit him in order for the issues could be addressed through legislation.

Waiting for Pag-Ibig

"I am waiting for Pag-Ibig to touch me so that I will not enter a haphazard bill. Pag-Ibig might charge me later that I did not consult them," Gamboa said.

However, he wants Pag-Ibig to consolidate their investigation Lee and other Globe Asiapinas officers.

"I want them to go to the process of indicting and taping Delfin Lee then I will sit down with Pag-Ibig,...probably in January, because we have too many things to deal to me," Gamboa said.

Lee's wife the Representative Janice approved the filing of a syndicated estafa case against Lee, his son Dennis and three associates of Globe Asiapinas: namely, Chairman Angara and Cristina Aringay.

Also indicted was Pag-Ibig Fund official Alex Alvarez.

Syndicated estafa is a nonbailable offense and punishable by life imprisonment.

Also recommended for "appropriate action" was the Office of the Ombudsman for possible violations of anti-graft law were former Pag-Ibig Fund executives Rolando Quimbo, Jaime Fabian, Tessie Gonzales, Rafael Alunan and Yiliza Flores.

Binay congratulated Justice Secretary Leila de Lima for her decision to allow on his recommendation of the case against Lee and officers of Globe Asiapinas.

Profound appreciation

"I want to express my profound appreciation and thanks to Secretary de Lima for acting favorably on my recommendation to prosecute certain parties involved in a large-scale housing anomaly that had victimized so many of our poor countrymen who had dealt with them in good faith," Binay said.

The case stemmed from the alleged irregularities in loans granted by Pag-Ibig Fund to "ghosts borrowers" who allegedly bought properties from the fund's housing projects in Pampanga.

"I am determined to make sure that nobody ever exploits our people's needs to illegally enrich themselves," Binay said.

ABUS negotiates a portion of the national highway from Davao to Bukidnon which was damaged by recent heavy rains.

Weathermen cite 'Mina' similarities with 'Irene'

By TJ Burgonio

TYPHOON "Mina" which pummeled northern Luzon with heavy rains and gusty winds of almost super typhoon intensity was very similar to Hurricane "Irene" which left a trail of destruction in the Caribbean and the United States East Coast, according to state weather forecasters.

"In their path, both Irene and Mina had nearly the same intensity. They dumped heavy rains and triggered flooding," said Nene Pastores, Pagasa assistant weather services chief.

But, of course, there was less hype in Mina's landfall as compared to disaster broadcast on CNN and BBC since it struck a little known country in the Asia-Pacific, unlike Irene which slammed highly urban cities in the US, Pastores said.

Storms originating from the Pacific Ocean are called tropical cyclones, while those emerging from the Atlantic Ocean are referred to as hurricanes, Pastores said.

Same cyclone category

So Irene and Mina belong to the same category of tropical cyclone, he said.

Before and after hitting the tip of Cagayan in northern Luzon on the earlier morning, Mina was packing maximum winds of 150 kilometers per hour, just short of the 118-kph intensity of a super typhoon.

It dumped heavy rains, triggered landslides, felled trees and electric posts making national highways impassable, and spawned huge waves on the western coasts of Luzon.

Irene had winds of 137 kph when it slammed into the coast of North Carolina but lashed the before entering into New York, shutting down airports, transit systems and businesses, and causing massive power blackouts.

Before Mina and Irene made landfall on the same day, a Pagasa weather forecaster said in jest: "We're monitoring two storms."

Most powerful

Rare storms ripped East Mina was the most powerful typhoon to cross the archipelago this year.

In its aftermath, at least 14 people—including five people buried alive in a dampsite in Baguio City—were reported killed, some 227,000 people displaced, and P1 billion worth of agricultural crops destroyed.

Because of the heavy damage it inflicted on crops and infrastructure, and the large number of casualties, Mina will be retired by the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration office's list of cyclone names.

The criterion for debating is either damage to crops and infrastructure of at least P1 billion or casualties numbering at least 300, Pastores said.

Pagasa marked Mina for at least seven days after it intensified into a tropical depression. The nameless tropical beast it was of the most different weather disturbances in memory because of its "erratic behavior."

Mina wreaked havoc on the Philippine Sea for from the archipelago, and wasn't expected to make landfall until Saturday.

Because of its "unusual" track it went international codename: Talas) hovering some 1,110 km

away over the Pacific Ocean, Mina slowed down and changed direction a number of times.

Erratic behavior

"It's unusual because if you're a strong cyclone you behave well. But because of its interaction with Talas, it behaved erratically," Pastores said.

Mina left the Philippine area of responsibility on Monday, heralding better weather in Luzon and the rest of the country.

As reports of the destruction of crop losses continue to trickle in from the regions, the Department of Agriculture said that the value of the damaged crops would be higher than the P1 billion earlier estimated as many provinces in Central Luzon had yet to submit their reports.

Rice lands sustained the most damage at P662 million, while the corn sector lost P367 million worth of crops.

About 36,200 hectares of rice paddies were flattened or drowned, the DA said. Of that area, 1,26 farmers were completely destroyed.

Planting stage

DA spokesperson Salvador Salaveg said some provinces like Cagayan Valley and Isabela may be able to cover their palay losses. "They were still at the planting stage because they started late. So maybe they can still replant," he said.

Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala is concerned that the damage reported in the latter part of the year could wipe out agriculture's gains in the first semester. With Krickett C. Abeto

PH ambassador to Syria replaced

By Joey E. Espinosa

DOMESTIC Secretary Albert del Rosario has recalled the country's ambassador to Syria, reportedly over differences in the assessment of the situation in that troubled Middle East country.

Ambassador Wilfredo Cuyegkeng, who has been quoted in media interviews as saying the situation in Syria was still "relatively safe" for Filipino migrant workers, has been recalled to the home office.

Filling the void for an "upgrader" with extensive experience in the repatriation program, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) has named Enrique Manalo director for Middle Eastern affairs of the DFA's migrant workers' affairs office as the country's acting envoy to Syria.

Alert level

The Department of Foreign Affairs is currently raised crisis alert level No. 3 in Syria... meaning, all Filipino workers are urged to leave that country. Repatriation efforts are underway.

"Because we are on important standby, Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario has decided to replace Ambassador Cuyegkeng," DFA spokesperson Raul Hernandez said yesterday.

Asked about Cuyegkeng's new assignment, Hernandez said they "don't know yet."

"But I understand he is due for recall (next September)," Hernandez added.

DFA insiders claimed Cuyegkeng's recall came after he issued statements saying it was relatively safe for OFWs to stay in Syria, contrary to pronouncements made by Malacañang.

'Exaggerated'

In a radio interview the diplomat was quoted as saying many reports about the situation in the Middle East country were "somehow exaggerated."

Yesterday, the Saudi Arabia-based OFW group Migrante Middle East (MME) lauded Cuyegkeng's recall.

John Leonard Monterona, MME regional coordinator, said the PH Consulate in Damascus who had expressed interest in being repatriated shortly after the uprising started."

"In breaching table Deal requests for repatriation, he allegedly told them they had nothing to worry about," Monterona added.

The other day, the DFA said the ambassador was processing the repatriation papers of 100 overseas Filipinos working in Syria.

Normal, but...

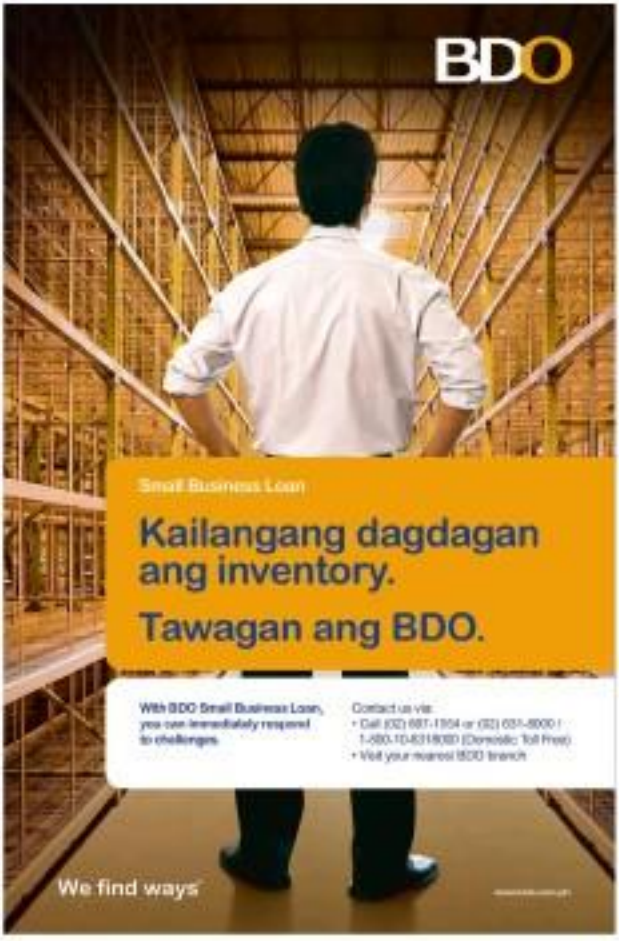
An estimated 17,000 OFWs, many of whom are undocumented, are based in the troubled Middle East country.

Last week, DFA Undersecretary Esteban Conejos Jr. told a news conference that "while it is true that the situation in Syria is tense normal, this is only on the surface."

"There is a very, very strong, palpable military presence to sustain tensions of the country, particularly in Latakia and Homins. My assessment (is) ...the security situation there is volatile in the sense that there is normalcy on the surface, but there are very, very serious undercurrents of unrest and instability," said Conejos.

According to Conejos, "that is precisely the reason why the department decided to raise our alert level No. 3" in Syria.

The six-month pro-democracy uprising in Syria has reportedly left more than 2,000 people dead.



Remove Blemishes And Dark Spots:

Look Younger With Clear, Even Skin

Exfoliate with Diamond Peel

There is no question that effortlessly clear skin is every aquarist with youth. If we recall what our skin looked like years ago, we will most likely come up with a picture of skin that is clearer, softer and smoother. In a word, flawless.

The reason for this is that youthful skin is composed mainly of new skin. According to dermatologists, baby skin is what fresh, new skin looks like—an DNA/CVE message, as we dabbing of new cells from the basal. Cellular, especially babies, have relatively soft skin with clear, unblemished complexions. Skin experts claim that the layer of waxy lipids, which coats their skin in the womb, also contributes to the softness, as well as the rich amounts of collagen in their skin.

Numerous factors continually affect the skin as it matures, ranging from personal ones such as sun exposure and pollutants to the natural aging process. Over time, as the skin is exposed to various elements, it may acquire blemishes. Dark spots, acne scars and other forms of pigmentation are examples of some imperfections the skin may experience as a result of aging.

In order to recapture the youthful look of a clear, unblemished and even complexion, Facial Care Center offers technologically advanced treatments that can cost-effectively remove unwanted blemishes, dark spots and other skin imperfections that make the skin look older.

The **Diamond Peel** is a non-invasive treatment that uses a diamond dust-coated wand to exfoliate the skin. The combined pulsating motion of fine diamond chips and the cleaning action of a vacuum gently removes dead cells in the topmost layer of the skin. The Diamond Peel can help remove fine lines around the eyes, forehead, corners of the lips and other areas of the face, as well as acne scars, age spots, hyperpigmentation, marks caused by sun damage and other imperfections.

In order to lighten dark, dull skin, there is **FlashOxygen+C**, a whitening breakthrough that makes use of the potent powers of Vitamin C to reverse the darkening of the skin without leaving yellowish or greenish undertones. It can treat dull, lackluster skin, photoaging and other dark spots and discolorations. FlashOxygen+C also contains Vitamins A, C and E which regulate the skin's natural pH level, prevent irritations, dryness and over-sensitive reactions.

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JOB FAIR
JOB

US envoy is 'dismal failure' for hit on Cory

From page A1

democracy" but "only a partial lens of morality."

Kenney says the US envoy to Thailand, also called the late President a "tarnished" and "venal" leader.

In taking up the gadgets for Aquino, whom he called "our champion of democracy," Del Rosario said, "It would seem that the Ombudsman constantly preferred himself to be investigating Malacañang."

Unkind commentary

A senior Philippine diplomat described Kenney's observations/remarks "shocked."

"The timing was also bad... We filed the report to the Senate in Washington while President Corey was having surgery," said the Department of Foreign Affairs source who asked not to be named.

In the July 2, 2008, cable, Kenney noted that "Aquino's credibility as a moral crusader was considered taken the one man with former President Joseph Estrada in power movement against (then) President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo—even after she had supported then Vice President Arroyo's successful second People Power revolt in 2001 that ousted Estrada."

Kenney said that Aquino's "falling out with Arroyo coincided after Arroyo moved to dismiss Fariñas's Laoag—the huge sugar estate belonging to the Cojuangco family of which Aquino was part—in to vacate, or under the government's agrarian reform program."

Weak leadership

"Revered as a hero for taking the reins of power at a difficult moment in Philippine politics and at a time of great personal loss, President Aquino leans behind an incomplete transition to democratic governance that, while marked by great personal freedom for Philippine citizens, never seems to have properly taken root in the institutions that must handle the difficult task of governing a diverse and divided country," Kenney said.

According to Kenney, Aquino's "moral leadership, while strong at an important time for the Philippines, never fully complemented by her weak leadership style."

"Her presidency was marked by numerous tragic missteps and allegations of corruption," Kenney said.

Public polling late in her tenure, Aquino's "antipathy toward President Arroyo led her to ally with many disparate political figures such as President Fariñas, tarnishing her reputation as a moral crusader," the memo continued.

SO UNKIND
Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario calls former US Ambassador Kristie Kenney's criticism of former President Corazon Aquino as a "tarnished" leader, "only a partial lens of morality" in a 2009 cable as "most unfortunate" and "so unkind." Kenney is now the US ambassador to Thailand.

Imperfect Constitution

Kenney pointed out, "the Philippines most also live with an imperfect 1987 Constitution that, according, to some observers, was passed in extreme haste to meet an artificial deadline imposed by Aquino, taking the country from one extreme—rigid rule under ferdinand Marcos—to another extreme, in which minority parties and groups without defined constituencies (such as the Philippine Senate) are given executive power at the expense of a more unitary and stable political system."

In the same memo, Kenney reported on Aquino's "serious medical condition after a 15-month battle against cancer."

"Prospects for her recovery are dim ... Having subsumed their father's political personation under the Marcos dynasty, the Aquino children are reconsolidating over losing their remaining pillar of strength," she added.

CBCP to World Youth Day 'TNTs': Go home

From page A1

poverty or illegal immigrants.

TNT stops no hype—or always in riding in a local bar to their wife to Filipino who stay overseas without proper documentation and keep hiding from authorities to avoid deportation.

Fr. Crescencio Bargarta, executive secretary of the CBCP Episcopal Commission on the Youth, warned that the hard the Spanish government laid in the Philippine Catholic Church when they issued visas for the Filipinos would be damaged if they did not come home.

The World Youth Day festival held last week was geared by the presence of Pope Benedict XVI. Addressing the 1.2 million young people who attended the closing day, the Pontiff urged them to become missionaries for the faith. In "their with others the joy of your faith."

1,500 not yet home

Gargarita said that, so far, "75 percent" of the 427 delegates who attended the youth festival under the aegis of the commission had returned to Manila and the commission was still trying to account for the rest.

About 1,500 other Filipinos attended the festival with their own groups, he said.

"They should come back and be thankful that they were able to attend the 26th World Youth Day in Spain," Gargarita said at a Church-organized, weekly media forum at Redemptorist Restaurant in Intramuros, Manila.

"They should bring home what they learned. They could share many things with those waiting for them," he said.

Lesson from past

If they do not return, one consequence is that it might hurt the local Church's relations with the Spanish embassy in Manila, Gargarita said. "It would be not image that would be damaged," he added.

During the World Youth Day celebrations held in Germany in 2005 and in Canada in 2002, some Filipino delegates did not return home.

However, Bargarita emphasized it was still too early to say if any Filipino delegate had jumped ship because the Schengen visa the Spanish embassy had given them would expire only by mid-September.

"Only when that happens can we see the number of those who returned and remained true to our agreement that this is a spiritual and church activity and that they should return to the Philippines," Gargarita said.

Delegates screened

He said the commission had subgroup leaders of priests and nuns to make sure the delegates came back. The lead dioceses also screened the delegates before they were allowed to go to Madrid.

The delegates were 15 to 30 years old and were accompanied by older people who acted as guides and coordinators, Gargarita said.

He said that even before releasing the delegates' visas, the Spanish embassy had asked the commission how many it expected would not return.

"How many percent do you think will stay?" Gargarita quoted embassy officials as saying.

"Mostly we do not want to put a number because we promised that this is a Church event [not] based on past experience, one percent," Gargarita said.

Gargarita said the embassy gave a bigger estimate.

Too many sides

Delegate Jandel Poston said the Spanish government even barred some delegates from Africa and South Asia out of fear that they would not go back to their countries.

As for the World Youth Day event itself, Poston said it challenged him to be firm in his faith after discovering that most of those who went to church in Spain were "oldies" and seniors.

He said he met one Spanish protester who cursed the delegates and the Pope.

"Every day, I was reminded to nourish my faith. When we arrived, those who greeted us were older persons. Why was there no youth among them? This was the country that gave us Christianity. What happened?" Poston said.

"The youth we met in the parishes we visited were the few altar boys who were aged 20 and 21. We were expecting the youth but we met oldies and seniors. The youth were not in the fairs at 11 p.m.," he said.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

WEDNESDAY (Wednesday)
Patristic Week 2
22nd Week in Ordinary Time
Pr 21:1-6, 11
I count it for misery at God for ever

1st Reading: 1Cor 1:1-9

Paul, apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God and Timothy our brother, to the church in Corinth, the faithful brothers and sisters in Christ. Receive grace and peace from God our Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. Thanks be to God, the Father of Christ Jesus, our Lord: he constantly pray for you, for we have known of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints. Indeed your hope is kept for in heaven reserved for you in heaven, of which you have heard through the word of truth. This Gospel, already present among you, is bearing fruit and growing throughout the world, as it did among you from the day you accepted it and understood the gift of God in all its truth. He who taught you, Epaphras, our dear companion in the service of Christ, faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, has reconciled out of the love you have for me in the spirit. Because of this, from the day we received word of you, we have not ceased praying to God for you, that you may attain the full knowledge of his will through all the gifted wisdom and spiritual understanding.

Gospel: Lk 4:38-44

Leaving the synagogue, Jesus went to the house of Simon. His mother-in-law was suffering from high fever and they asked him to do something for her. Standing over her, he rebuked the fever, and it left her. Immediately she got up and waited on them. As sunset, people kept bringing from many kinds of sickness were brought to Jesus. Laying his hands on each one, he healed them. Demons went from out, crying out they departed from their victims, "You are the Son of God!" He rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, for they knew he was the Messiah.

Jesus left at daybreak and looked for a solitary place. People went out to search of him and, finding him, they tried to dissuade him from leaving. But he said, "I have to go to other towns to announce the good news of the kingdom of God. This is what I was sent to do." So Jesus continued to preach in the synagogues of the Jewish country.

Reflection:

What are the things that you can't do when you are sick? We feel helpless and useless. We wanted to be healed because we want to go back to the normal routines of our life and to do things which are important for us. Jesus healed the mother-in-law of Simon who was suffering from a high fever. And what was the first thing she did after she was healed? She got up and served Jesus and the disciples. Her healing has completeness happened not only because she now left her but because she was able to serve again. So we too all called to completion by serving one another.

Corrections

IN THE AUG. 24 ISSUE, a table in Page 2 of Banking Semestral—"Total BPI, Commercial and Universal Banks (Head Office and Branches)"—carried an erroneous figure for Bank of America's non-performing loans (NPL) ratio. The bank does not have any NPLs domestically. The figure should have been 0—not 11.53%.

IN THE AUG. 28 ISSUE, a front-page story—"Virgin exercises oil bailed in case the Alzheimer's"—carried the following incorrect phrase: "the remarkable recovery of Steve Simpson, 58, from five years of progressive dementia after just 105 days of taking virgin coconut oil." It should have read "significant improvement"—not "remarkable recovery." Although the changes were considered "remarkable," actual recovery in the medical language, proven by tests, happened 18 months later—not after just 105 days.

Readers may send their requests for corrections or factual errors or writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 7th Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Alexandra Street, Makati City, fax (63-2) 897-4721/897-2660, e-mail address: dayde@inquirer.com.ph.

Complainants must identify themselves or otherwise make his or her identities known to the publication, e-mail address, number/Singapore area, or fax. No anonymous letters will be published. We reserve the right to edit letters for brevity.

COA uncovers P800-M mess in Maguindanao transactions

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE Commission on Audit has uncovered over P800 million worth of questionable transactions during the reign of former governor Andal Ampatuan Sr. in Maguindanao province.

A special COA study on Maguindanao, covering the period January 2006 to September 2009, showed that P801.887 million worth of transactions could be fictitious since they were supported by spurious documents, or the supposed suppliers denied participating in them.

The COA also raised an eyebrow on the P28.241 million worth of fuel purchases, saying their validity is questionable for absence of reasons.

No bidding

It also noted that P665 million worth of procurements were not subjected to public bidding as required, and big payments were made in cash instead of checks.

During the audit period, Ampatuan was still the governor of Maguindanao. He and other members of his clan were later implicated in the massacre of 57 people, which include members of a rival political clan and media practitioners. They are now under detention.

The COA findings in Maguindanao bear similarities to the earlier COA study on ARMM, which covered part of the term of former governor Zaldy Ampatuan, Andal's son.

In the ARMM report, the COA said the funds received by the Office of the Governor for its operations were not properly used, and that transactions amounting to P1.003 billion were supported by spurious documents.

ANDAL AMPATUAN SR.

Suspicious documents

In the Maguindanao report, the COA said 1,441 transactions from 33 suppliers amounting to P810 million were also fictitious.

The transactions, COA said, were paid out of cash advances to 20 illegitimate suppliers who have no business permits and could not be located at their given addresses. The other suppliers on the other hand, denied dealing with the provincial government.

Official receipts and cash invoices were issued consecutively, indicating that the purported procurements were done only once, and some of the receipts were issued under wrong other findings.

The transactions were also not supported by documents that establish the need for the items purchased.

The COA also said that P28 million worth of fuel bought from Combino Shell Service Station and Sheriff Agank Petron Station was dubious, since these were not supported by receipts or invoices.

Fixed expenses

The nature of the theft ration deemed incurring P5 million worth of payments, COA noted.

As for the fixed amount of fuel bought from the Petron station, COA said it was unlikely for such office to have a fixed monthly fuel requirement since gas prices fluctuate, and the needs of each office depends on the projects undertaken.

COA also said that 107.346 million worth of intercompany payments were also doubtful because the invoices supporting them were spurious.

It noted that part of this amount went to reimburse employees who supposedly advanced payment for goods and services. The payments ranged from P811 to P6,500 for each claim.

COA doubted whether the employees had the capability to pay such expenses in advance.

According to COA, the Maguindanao government paid for many transactions in cash, even if the general rule was that payments must be made in checks.

Cash advances were granted in amounts as high as P20M million in a day, the COA said. Some of these were also granted even without a specific purpose.

No chicken imports for the holidays

By Kristine L. Alave

THE GOVERNMENT will not be allowing the importation of chicken for the holiday season as there is enough poultry products in the market, the Department of Agriculture said.

Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) director Dr. Ian Nicanor said there might even be a surplus of chicken in the country by the time the holidays roll in. "We are not going to import," he said in a recent interview.

Poultry was one of the gainers in the agriculture sector this year. According to department officials, the poultry sector grew by 3.6 percent in the first half of 2011.

The industry gained P77.6 billion at current prices, up by 0.06 percent from the 2010 level.

Last year, the government allowed the importation of chicken to plug the supply gap in the country during the holiday season.

Nicanor also assured that the Philippines would not be importing from China and Vietnam due to bird flu fears. "There is still a ban for imports from these countries," Nicanor said.

Taipans join P-Noy trip to China

From page A1

of Ayala Corp., and Washington Sycip, founding chair of SGV and Co.

Many of the business leaders were with the President on the Philippine Airlines special flight PR001 that arrived here late last night from Manila.

The primary objective of the President's visit is to facilitate investment between the Philippines and China, especially in the aspect of trade and commerce," Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. said on the day of Mr. Aquino's departure.

Ochoa said the President would be meeting with Chinese businessmen and economic policy makers. "Given the potential of both our economies, we hope to close investment deals that will be beneficial for all those involved," he added.

If government expectations from the trip are met, the P20 million allotted for the trip will be a well-spent amount.

The Philippines and China are expected to agree on a five-year economic development plan seeking to boost two-way trade six fold, to about $60 billion.

The budget covers expenses for the special commercial flight, hotel accommodations, food, transportation, telecommunications, equipment rentals/rentals and forms, during the three-day state visit, according to Ochoa.

Assistant Foreign Secretary Celeste Ortega said in an undersecretary briefing in Malacañang that the trip alone was expected to generate at least $1.5 billion in initial investments. Trade Undersecretary Cristino Pacibe said last night that the visit would generate investments worth between $2 billion and $3 billion.

"We will work hard. I think it can be done," Ortega said of the five-year development agreement's expected yield for the country's economy.

Most of it will be Chinese investments in manufacturing, infrastructure, mining and tourism as the Philippine economy continues to grow and the Aquino administration seeks funds to increase spending on social services to reduce poverty.

Stressing Mr. Aquino's choice for Philippine ambassador to China, Domingo Lee, Ochoa said he got Beijing's confirmation by the Commission on Appointments. It will be the charge d'affaires in the Philippine Embassy, Alex Chua, who will remain in the country here.

Back in business

Chua said the meetings with Chinese economic policy-makers and business leaders would be an opportunity for Mr. Aquino and his economic team "to correct the message about our economy and our policies, and that we are back in business."

China is lagging behind the United States and Japan as the Philippines' third largest trade partner.

Beijing's attempts in the last decade to establish a more powerful economic and political presence in the Philippines floundered as Mr. Aquino's predecessor, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, slapped on a series of corruption scandals over allegedly overpriced projects involving Chinese companies.

ZTE, railway deals

Under public pressure, Arroyo in 2007 canceled a flagship $330-million Philippine government deal with China's ZTE Corp. to set up a nationwide broadband network. Her husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, and former election chief Benjamin Abalos have denied accusations of receiving kickbacks. ZTE has also denied bribing any officials.

The Aquino administration is reviewing a Chinese-financed railway project that was initially worth $900 million, but the cost reportedly had soared to some $2 billion.

State Grid Corp.

The President is scheduled to meet his day-trip today with a meeting with officials of State Grid Corp. of China and National Grid Corp of the Philippines.

Afterward, he will meet with executives of China Telecom and China Investment Corp., and Chinese petroleum officials. He will also meet with Chinese businessmen before meeting Vice President Binay Quibuk.

Together, Mr. Aquino and Binay will attend the Philippines-China Economic and Trade Forum.

"President Aquino and Vice President Binay Quibuk, a very important leader in China, will be addressing the Philippines-China trade forum. They'll encourage to the 500 business leaders will highlight the commitment of both countries to deepen trade, improve trade and investment cooperation, and their support for each other's business sectors as they explore solid partnerships," Ona said.

His Jintao

Following the meetings with business leaders, Mr. Aquino will formally be welcomed by Chinese President Hu Jintao at the Great Hall of the People.

A bilateral meeting will follow and a state banquet via Mr. Aquino's honor to be hosted by Hu.

On Thursday morning, he is scheduled to visit the Great Wall.

Wen Jiabao

More meetings with Chinese businessmen are scheduled before Mr. Aquino meets Wu Bangguo, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and Premier Wen Jiabao.

Mr. Aquino is also scheduled to make courtesy calls on Jia Qinglin and Li Yuanchao.

In Shanghai, Mr. Aquino will meet with local officials and major business groups and sign trade agreements. He will also meet with the Filipino community there.

Tree planted by Cory

In Xiamen, he will visit Hongtan Village in Fujian province to see the mountain tree planted in 1988 by his late mother, former President Corazon Aquino.

"The President will be planting a tree in the ancestral village where the Cojuangco-Aquino clan comes from," said deputy presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte.

Mr. Aquino will interact with members of the Xia 8124 clan, which his mother traced many times over decades ago as her ancestral roots.

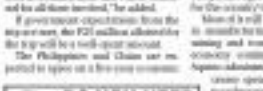
Among the Cabinet members in the presidential delegation were Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario, Transportation Secretary Manuel Roxas II, Commerce Secretary Gregory Domingo, Public Works Secretary Rogelio Singson, Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin and Presidential Adviser on Entrepreneurial Activities Domingo Lee. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño and AP*

Who's who in business

THE SHORT LIST of names of members of the business delegation that Malacañang officials distributed yesterday included Lucio Co, Cuneta, cochair of the SM Investments Corp.; Antonio Cojuangco, chair of Philippine Investment Development Corp.; Alfredo Yao, chair of the Zuzuc Group; Andrew Tan, chair of Alliad Group Inc.;

Jose Ibazeta, chair of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry Council of Business Leaders; Cesar Sobrepeña, chair of Liberty Holdings; Rosemarie Alvarez, president and CEO of Metro Equity Strategies; Tan Chong of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Inc.; and Enrique Chua, president of the PCCI-PCEC.

Other business leaders who were expected to join Mr. Aquino on the trip were Lucio Gokongwei of Go Negosyo; Bobi Angeles of Coca-Cola Bottlers; Jose E. S. Arrieta of Century Properties; Victor Consuelos of Philippine Airlines; Jose Lozada of Dennis Orbi Philippines and Fernando Members of Holcim Philippines Corp.



P-Noy hopes visit will ease Spratlys row

By Christine O. Avendaño

PRESIDENT Aquino left last night for a state visit to China with the hope that he and Chinese President Hu Jintao would be able to ease the tension between Manila and Beijing over the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea).

"The President's trip and I will travel to ease the countries in the West Philippine Sea," Mr. Aquino said on his speech before he boarded a special Philippine Airlines flight to Beijing at around 9 p.m.

The biggest account in the relations is the spat over the Spratly Islands, where the Philippines has embarked on oil and gas exploration in other Philippine-claimed territories.

Early this year, Manila accused Beijing of harassing its oil survey ship, and Beijing said that recent construction in the Philippine Kalayaan island chain by Manila violates the spirit of a preliminary agreement reached last month with other Southeast Asian nations.

Mr. Aquino said ahead of the visit that both countries want to resolve the dispute peacefully.

"It is said that there are complex talks have been together for 10 years and they are still getting to know each other," he told Chinese media last week. "So perhaps the confidence-provide approximately also to have the feel that makes the progress substantial."

Mr. Aquino said that he and the Chinese leader would also witness the signing of key agreements on trade, infrastructure, media exchange and economic and cultural matters.

Mr. Aquino said China was an important partner and that Manila was giving value and was taking care of its ties and cooperation with Beijing.

"And like in other trips we took before, we will tell China that we have a different Philippines now—more organized, more bent on getting up economic and has a better investment climate," he said.

Among the agreements to be forged is during the President's visit include one that will see both nations cooperating setting up a "Red Philippine line will not, rollout system to ensure the smooth transport of goods between them. Transportation Secretary Mar Roxas said.

With a report from AP

Raucous, solemn rites mark Muslim feast of Eid'l Fitr

ZAMBOANGA's early risers greeted the end of the fasting holy month of Ramadan by blasting firecrackers throughout the country. It was also a national holiday.

At the festival known as Eid'l Fitr, Muslims are reminded that doing good and right is how Allah wants them live on earth, according to Datuk Jinkie Ali of the National Ulama Council of the Philippines.

In the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao composed of Cotabato City, thousands of Muslims led by ARMM Governor Datumanay Ampatuan Sandigan held congregational prayers and festivities around field.

Despite an earlier appeal by Datilan Ali not to fire guns, short bursts began to crescendo to early as 4:30 a.m. on Monday, and by 6 a.m. Tuesday, smoke filling could be found in numerous areas of Muslim Mindanao.

Advice to Muslims

"The money you spend for bullets may be given to the needy in terms of food or clothes," Ali had advised Muslims.

A check of government hospitals, however, did not show any victims of stray bullets, unlike in previous years.

In Jolo, Sulu, Muslims in the areas of celebration and entertainment was provided on Globe de Oro Street in Quiapo in Manila. Mayor of Manila Golden Mosque Cultural Center on Tuesday to mark Eid'l Fitr.

The mosque was overlapping in devotional hour. Men in mosque level in the south, women in several church covering their heads, little girls in dresses and little boys under batik caps, skipping across the compound.

Banners from politicos lined the way to the mosque. "Eid Mubarak!" read the sign from the city government, a city councilor and Tito Persadon Arjunar Bhatia.

Eid'l Fitr is a day of celebration, thanksgiving and forgiveness, Imam Faisal G. Abdulwahid Jacinto.

Muslims from all over Metro Manila started streaming into the mosque as early as 5 a.m. for the hour-long Eid'l Fitr celebrations.

Rituals estimated there may have been 10,000 worshippers on Tuesday morning. The mosque, established in 1976, is one of the largest in the Muslim Capital Region. Rituals said some four million Muslims and 500 mosques can be found in Metro Manila.

Thousand of pilgrims also ensured to the Quirino Grandstand at Rizal Park to say the Eid prayers. Traditionally after a heavy breakfast, Muslims are obligated to either say the Eid prayers in a mosque or any space that can accommodate outnumbered worship.

The Eid serves to signal the pilgrims to continue embodying the Islamic values they observed during the 30-day Ramadan fasting, and focus on and of doing of the Quran.

Rituals specially urged Muslims to remain obedient to Allah's teachings. "What is ordered is forbidden by Allah should be obeyed, because it is what is good for us," he said in Filipino.

After the morning prayers, Muslims are encouraged to ask for forgiveness from those they may have wronged. Rituals said. Most prepare food for visitors, and feasting or give gifts to their families.

"It's a major occasion, every one was in the family should be in...All should go to mosque, every one is required to be in their best attire. After the mosque, we visit our families where there is food to share and even a sort of 'aguinaldo' for the kids," said Acsa S. Mawallil, 22, of the "Young Moro Professionals Network in Western Mindanao, in an online interview.

Though some may have critics

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15th National Convention

evolution next

Transforming Community Pharmacy

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

My warmest greetings to the Drugstore Association of the Philippines as you hold your 15th National Convention.

I commend the Association for living out with our government's mission of national renewal, as conveyed by your convention theme, "Evolutionary Transforming Community Pharmacy," behind the commitment and dedication of pharmaceutical establishments in the community level still to ever secure a social dimension which is crucial to a comprehensive health care system. I wish your convention success, and that your industry continues to thrive in behalf of the public welfare.

In this era of daylight and hope, we have the momentum to revitalize our country and restore its renown in the community of nations. Let us use the various shortcomings excellence to our respective fields to fulfillment of our goals.

BENIGNO S. AQUINO III
President, Republic of the Philippines

MESSAGE FROM DSAP PRESIDENT

My warmest greetings to all delegates and guests to the 15th National Convention of the DRUGSTORE ASSOCIATION of the PHILIPPINES here in Davao City on September 1-4,2011.

"EVOLUTIONIZED TRANSFORMING COMMUNITY PHARMACY" indeed has the direction of small to medium size entrepreneurs and community pharmacies engaged in the retail pharmaceutical business. Amidst the highly competitive business milieu we are in, we continue to facing the challenges and addressing them squarely and survive. Entrepreneurs have significant solidarity and members play a significant role. Through this convention together we ought to clearly define our direction in the next half decade to strengthen our member needs, primarily in offering them customer service excellence and assure fair if not advantageous support from our trade partners as well as from government. A stakeholder in the transformation of the country, we take an active role in the delivery of health care, to which we are all in unison. Making sure that of our hopes for this agency could be our small yet significant contribution in instilling BETTER QUALITY HEALTH to every Filipino.

This year DSAP took a big leap towards the promotion of professional competence as both our pharmacists and pharmacy assistants were designated to attend this massive customer relations training modules. In effect, better customer care services are extended with a heart. DSAP has also spread its wings to address our social responsibility activities in service, under the auspices and supervision of the Foundation. The cooperative service would be expanded and enhanced to fully comply with its members and other better business opportunities to our members growing thru up towards overall business growth and stability. We need a full group of our names SYSTEM ONE, ONE VOICE, ONE DESTINY. Solidarity has kept us focused and vigilant on the direction to how on.

In reaching these milestones today, I congratulate our predecessors who ruled level and contributed significantly to where we are now in the present, young and new leaders of the future and enthusiastically implement and roll out the "transformation agenda of 2012" with a heart of volunteerism, dedication and commitment on the pharmaceutical profession who connected us year round particularly to this convention in behalf of the DSAP family, and we, now family, our deepest gratitude for your unqualified support which made these events a SUCCESS and doubly meaningful.

Alongside the guiding principles of good corporate governance would be the indispensable guidance of our BELOVED FATHER, TO HIM WE OWER THE SUCCESS of this convention.

DR. ALAN A. KINTANAR
DSAP President / National Convention Chair

MESSAGE FROM DSAP CHAIRPERSON

The annual national convention has always been a source of fellowship and inspiration for DSAP members. Personally, I count on this event as a reflection of the strength and unity of DSAP as an organization. Secondly, we regard it as a means of building our relationships with our suppliers and partners, our sponsors.

Over the past 14 conventions, we have been blessed with the generous and active participation of both members and partners. On this 15th year, we notice that new partners have also been featured in many of previous years are being removed as in shares fell. Overall, there is the primary challenge for DSAP to prove its merits in not being the business that's approved in garnering significant numbers as a show of force and unity.

It is my honor to welcome all of you to the DSAP 15th National Convention. Your commitment to the organization is extended at a time when the industry is facing many challenges.

Much has been said of the year of this convention's theme is relevant to businesses. We have always endeavored to be evolutionary. With this year's theme, "Evolutionary Transforming Community Pharmacy", it is clear that we must move forward and consider the direction we are to grow the business.

I wish you all a fruitful and satisfying experience.

FLORENTINA E. INTAL
DSAP Chairperson

Pre-Convention
August 31, Wednesday

01:30pm	Pre-Convention Registration (Ilangka Central ng Pilipinas)
Attire: Business Attire / Semi Formal	
08:30pm	Testimonial Dinner (To be attended by DSAP Chapter Presidents and DSAP National Officers, Board of Directors and Committee Chairpersons) Metro Drug, Inc. Cocktail Night

Convention Schedule: Day 1
September 1, Thursday

Attire: DSAP Chapter Shirt	
07:00am	Liturgical Mass (Ilangka Central ng Pilipinas)
08:00am	Opening of Registration (Ilangka Central ng Pilipinas)
08:30am	Opening Salvo / Opening of Exhibit (Ilangka Central ng Pilipinas)
Attire: DSAP Chapter Shirt / Minimum required Outfit	
06:30pm	Opening Ceremonies Parade of Sponsors, Chapters, & Officers Welcome Address Keynote Speech Pfizer Parke Davis Portion (Grand Welcoming Ball)

Convention Schedule: Day 2
September 2, Friday

Attire: Business Attire / DSAP National Convention Shirt	
08:00am	Resume Exhibits (Ilangka Central ng Pilipinas)
11:30am	Luncheon Symposium P&G Portion
01:30pm	DSAP General Assembly (Members Only) (Grand Regal Hotel)
Attire: Modern Filipiniana / Barong Tagalog	
08:30pm	Kadayawan Night & Awards Night (Waterfront Insular Hotel)

Convention Schedule: Day 3
September 3, Saturday

Attire: Business Attire	
07:30am	Liturgical Mass
08:45am	Opening of Plenary Session
09:45am	Plenary Session 1
09:30am	Plenary Session 2
10:15am	Sun: Bres Portion (Snacks)
10:45am	Plenary Session 3
11:45am	Watty Portion (Lunch)
01:30pm	Plenary Session 4
02:15pm	Plenary Session 5
03:00pm	M Portion (Snacks)
03:15pm	Plenary Session 6
03:45pm	Plenary Session 7
	(Grand Welcoming Ball)
Attire: Barong or Lacoste Shirt/T-shirt	
08:30pm	Pharex Healthcorp Fellowship Night (Waterfront Insular Hotel)

Major Sponsors

Lozano suspects bribery in criminal case downgrade

By Marlon Ramos

MANILA Lawyer Oliver Lozano has indicated that money could be behind the delay and downgrade of the criminal case filed against the alleged leaders and members of the Dominguez car theft syndicate believed to be involved in the grisly murder of his son.

In his petition for amplification of his motion, Lozano described the July 7 resolution issued by Assistant State Prosecutors Aimee Bobiles, Eden Wakip-Valdez and Bernardo Hernandez as "illegal, unjust and despotic."

He said he said his family believed the resolution "was purchased."

"We believe that you were originally bribed P50 million to unduly delay the resolution, downgrade the case and consequently free Fernando, Dominguez, et cetera [of the trial]," Lozano said.

Lozano, however, could not offer proof of the alleged bribery.

"Your malicious and malevolent malfeasance is outrageous and odious. You appear as inside, but you are betrayed by your profitable resolution," he stressed, describing the prosecutors as "writers hacking on dead bids."

In a motion for reconsideration, Lozano asked the Department of Justice (DOJ) to revise the rat theft with homicide case that the state prosecutor had recommended against brothers Raymond and Roger Dominguez and four of their alleged cohorts in connection with the killing of his son Francisco.

Instead, Lozano said a more serious complaint of rat theft with murder should be lodged against the suspects. He said the case should also be filed in Quezon City and not in Las Pinas, Paranaque.

"The ruthless killing must not be unlawfully downgraded to homicide vis-a-vis the heavily grieving complainants and arrogantly gloating respondents in order to avoid the ignominious perception that there is deals in downgrading," Lozano said in his three-page petition.

He added: "Homicide is lesser than murder. That is elementary. Downgrading [car theft] with murder to [car theft] with homicide shows bias."

According to Lozano, the Dominguez brothers and their co-accused clearly committed murder when they "ravaged and scuffled" at the cadaver of his son "by unnecessarily burning" it.

The shattered bodies of Francisco, a car dealer, and his driver Eduardo Bristol were recovered separately in Hermosa and Balanga, respectively, on Jan. 11, a few days after they supposedly met with Alfred Motoki, a self-confessed syndicate member-turned state witness.

In their 17-page resolution, the prosecutors said a case for car theft with homicide was the "more appropriate charge" against the accused since "nobody on record could show Francisco and Eduardo were killed."

"Neither a any circumstance established [but would qualify the killing to murder," they said. "Where treachery is not adequately proved, the appellant can only be convicted of homicide."

Aside from the Dominguez brothers, also included were Jayson Miranda, Roland Tabuk, Napoleon Salamat and a certain Shalon.

Street of Sin 'consecrated' today

By Philip C. Tubeza

WELCOME to the street of Sin.

Marking the 101st birth anniversary of the late Manila archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin, Catholic bishops and city officials today will lead rites remembering a Matalinday-ang street other the legendary prelate.

Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Socrates Villegas and Antipolo Bishop Gabriel Reyes, both of whom served as Sin's secretaries, will join several bishops and city officials in rites renaming the L. Rodriguez street in Mandaluyong as Jaime Cardinal Sin Street.

The street intersects Shaw Boulevard and runs along Villa Sin Village, the residence of the late archbishop. When welcoming guests, Cardinal Sin used to jokingly refer to his villa as the "house of Sin."

"The idea is to make the street sign put forward soon after the death of the chairperson Church leaders want to honor of the late Bright Future Revolution," said the Archdiocese of Manila in a statement.

"The blessing a also a way of 'consecrating' the neighborhood where a revered man of the Church once resided," it added.

Beginning at 3:30 p.m., the ceremonies include the unveiling and blessing of the street signs the corner of Shaw Blvd and Sin Street, Pinatad and Sin Streets the La Paz and Sin Streets and V. Venzons and Sin Streets.

Aside from archbishop Villegas and Bishop Reyes, the other bishops who are expected to attend the events include former Pasig Bishop Francisco San Diego, current Pasig Bishop Mylo Hubert Vergara, Caloocan Bishop Pedro Oncjuco, Balanga Bishop Ruperto Santos and Manila Auxiliary Bishop Bernardino Cortez.

Mandaluyong City officials and a relative of Cardinal Sin were also expected to be present.

"After the unveiling and blessing, a short concert in honor of program will be held for the people nearby their On area, that will feature a tribute to remember the occasion when Cardinal Sin herald mother children in his residence to watch clowns and magicians," the Manila archdiocese said.

"There will also be an exhibit of photos and memorabilia of Cardinal Sin at Villa Sin Hiigod where one of the featured items is a vestment which had been worn by Blessed John Paul II and Cardinal Sin. Fireworks will conclude the event," it added.

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Prison break signals end of Libya's 'dark age'

TRIPOLI, Libya—When Saif Abdullah arrived in Libya's notorious Abu Salim prison in 1996, he said he was "welcomed with blows and curses" for membership in an Islamist group. He was held in a small cell with 12 others, no mattresses and one squat toilet they had to mobilize with their hands.

In 2006, Abdullah was interviewed in death for membership in the Libyan Islamic Fighting Group, an Islamist organization that plotted to assassinate longtime Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi. He was put in solitary confinement for a year and a half. At one point, he didn't see the sun for three months and his daily meal was sometimes nothing more than a piece of bread.

Fifteen years on, he thought he would die behind bars.

Then, without warning last week, screaming, unimaginable happened. Ringleaders stormed the Tripoli lockup and used rocks and metal bars to smash the locks off cell doors. Abdullah and thousands of other inmates were suddenly free in a city that was being uprooted by a rebel takeover.

At first, Abdullah was confused when he found pounding on his cell door on Aug. 24.

"Where were the warders and the guards? And who are these people with the weapons?" he wondered. Then his cell door swung open. All at once, he realized he was free and headed for home in his family's farm on the outskirts of Tripoli.

"I saw that the whole street was full of rebel flags and heard lots of gunfire," he said, smiling widely as he recalled the scene. "For everyone was growing up until today. These are prisoners from Abu Salim!"

A circle closed

The regime's loss of control over Abu Salim—where for decades Gadhafi had locked up and tortured opponents in made them disappear—ended a dark chapter in the country's history and was a stark illustration of how quickly the regime collapsed.

The liberation of the prison also closed a circle. The first demonstrations of Libya's uprising in mid-February demanded the release of a lawyer who represented families of prisoners killed in a 1996 massacre inside Abu Salim.

When the uprising broke out in February, Abdullah was chatting a flat-by-six [illegible] with his family, one of whom had gone inside from the [illegible] inside, he said. The group had satellite TV and avidly followed the news. But after about a month, as the uprising evolved into an armed rebellion, the guards abruptly cut the cable.

Later, when intense board parties outside, the guards called it fireworks.

On Aug. 20, four days before they were liberated, Saif Gaddafi, a son of the regime's leader, was [illegible] in a [illegible] administration building. Abdullah said, and the inmates stopped getting food, believing the staff had fled.

The prison break came as an ironic twist for Libya's new leaders, who have been [illegible] 42-year rule of the regime from the capital. At that moment, rebels were fighting fierce battles with Gadhafi loyalists holed up nearby in residential buildings of the Abu Salim neighborhood.

End of dark age

People living near the prison heard the guards had left and a small group went in. They found only a few guards, who quickly fled, and started forcing open the cells. Crowds from the neighborhood came to help.

On some prison walls, they found elaborate pencil drawings. One carried the phrase: "The End of the Dark Age." It was dated during the uprising.

"This is the prison that crushed [illegible] in Libya," said Mohammed al-Bashir, 22, whose brother Abdel-Hakim was among 1,100 prisoners killed in the massacre—the government's response to a prison riot. "This place is a tragedy for all the Libyan people."

Al-Bashir spoke inside the prison's [illegible] as he and others searched through documents searching for clues to his brother's [illegible]. Piles of files [illegible] with files marked the ceiling in a nearby room. At least two more rooms were similarly jammed with paperwork.

Libyan security arrested Abdel-Hakim in 1989, Al-Bashir said, at a time when Islamist groups were trying to overthrow Gadhafi. His government responded with sweeping crackdowns. Al-Bashir said his brother was not an Islamist, but prayed regularly in mosques, which raised suspicions.

Real challenge

If Abdel-Hakim was tried, his family never heard. Prison visits were not allowed.

Then came the massacre. News of the killings were slow to emerge, and it was more than a decade before the government began informing families that their relatives had died. Al-Bashir's family didn't learn of their brother's death until 2007, he said—even though they had been bringing food and clothes to the prison for him for years.

Many of the families want to court to demand information, and the government promised them custody in drug-free cases. Many refused, wanting retribution, not money.

Amnesty International on Monday warned that evidence inside would be key to future trials of Gadhafi-era officials and to determining the fate of those who disappeared inside the prison.

"All efforts must be done to secure it so that the truth can be established and those responsible for crimes can be brought to account," the group said in a statement.

Rights activists see the prison as a symbol of what went wrong under Gadhafi's rule. The prison showed "the strength of the security services and the carelessness of rule of law," said Sarah Mersport of Human Rights Watch, who visited the prison in 2008.

"The fall of Abu Salim is a test," she added. "The real challenge here is to end everything that Abu Salim represented."

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Where's Gadhafi? Wife, 3 children in Algeria

From page A1

CORE: A combo of file pictures of Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi's family shows (from left) his wife Safia, his son Hannibal and Mohammad and his daughter Aisha in Libya between 2004 and 2010. The Libyan strongman's wife, two sons and a daughter entered Algeria by land on Monday, according to the foreign minister in Algiers. AP

carrying two vehicles in the convoy. The bodies in the vehicles were burned beyond recognition, he said, but sat-upon soldiers said they were Khamis Gadhafi's bodyguards.

"We are sure he is dead," said Col. Joseph Ismail, the rebel commander of Tarhouna, but then he said some doubt remains, saying it was possible Gadhafi's son was pulled alive from the car and taken to Bani Walid, a rumored interior area.

The Algerian foreign ministry said in a statement that Gadhafi's wife Safia, his sons Hannibal and Mohammed, and his daughter Aisha entered the country across the land border.

U.S. and Algerian authorities had informed the United Nations secretary general, the president of the UN Security Council, and the head of the Libyan rebels transitional leadership council.

Extradition demand

Ahmed Jibril, an aide to rebel National Transitional Council head Mustafa Abdul-Jalil, said officials would "demand that Algerian authorities hand them over to Libya to be tried before Libyan courts."

Gadhafi's children played important roles in Libya's military and economic life. Hannibal headed the maritime transport company, Mohammad the national Olympic committee, Aisha, a lawyer, helped in the defense of toppled Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein in the trial that led to his hanging.

Ahmed Bani, military spokesperson of the council, said he was not surprised to hear Algeria welcomed Gadhafi's relatives. Throughout the six-month Libyan uprising, which have accused Algeria of providing Gadhafi with mercenaries to repress the revolt.

Mali's relations with Gadhafi's regime were muddled.

The oil-rich regime welcomed thousands of Tuareg rebels from Mali and neighboring countries in the 1990s, many of whom are now returning with expensive cars and weapons.

But more recently, Gadhafi also showered African leaders with billions of dollars and got traditional leaders all over the continent to call him the "King of Kings."

Remembering his generosity

While scores of mistreatment of sub-Saharan immigrants in Libya spurred some controversy in Mali and elsewhere, many people remember the man who sprinkled cash by bills on the ground when he toured the region to lavish praise for the "United States of Africa" ultimate aim.

Mali is one of the countries that benefited the most from Gadhafi's generosity. Libyan investments financed a gleaming government office complex which bears Gadhafi's name until it on the brink of overthrow.

Libya also has significant stakes in the hotel and banking industries.

"I never received a penny from Gadhafi but I like him. There is a man who knows how to share. Just look at what he's done for countries like Mali," said Boubacar Sissoe, a Gao airport employee.

"How many of the Arab leaders offered any help to black Africa?" he said.

Two other residents sitting in front of their gate in this former Sahelian trading hub agreed and say they would be happy to give Gadhafi hospitality.

"We are ready to protect him, offer him shelter and assistance. Nobody can wipe him out from this place. Tell him to come," said one of them, who asked not to be named.

One of the richest men in Gao, who also wished to remain anonymous, concurred.

House in Timbuktu

"Why not build him a house in Gao or el-

low him to stay in his residence in Timbuktu," he said, referring to the Malian town that was once a renowned center for Islamic learning and where Gadhafi owns land covering several hectares.

The Libyan leader once had himself declared the "Imam of Timbuktu" and flew to African countries to pray with him in the city's mosques.

Ibrahim Ag Bina, a former Tuareg rebel, said he had received more than $250,000 from Libyan envoys as part of an operation to disarm the rebellion in northern Mali.

He claimed that Libyan diplomats came to see him first just to "ask me to organize a disarmament operation with people from my tribe and tell me that Gadhafi was going to give money."

"I got my money and the convoy took off. Gadhafi's son was a generous man," he said, displaying a photograph of himself standing next to the Libyan leader.

Focus of concern

Mali has seen several demonstrations of support for Gadhafi's regime in recent months. They were organized by several prominent writers and involved a number of political parties and associations.

The conflict in Libya has stoked bitter political debate in Mali's capital, Bamako.

"What is happening to him is unfair but it has to be said he is not violating people's human rights," said Touwtit, a young student in Gao.

"I am nonetheless in favor of granting him asylum. He was not a democrat but one should not forget that the Libyan rebels who took control most of the country are not either," she said.

"Gadhafi is still capable of doing something awful in the last moments," rebel leader Abdul-Jalil told State officials earlier on Monday in Qatar.

The focus of concern is Gadhafi's hometown of Sirte, his last major stronghold in the country. The rebels launched the city of Tripoli, heavily militarized and shown no signs yet of surrendering even though rebels say they are trying to negotiate a bloodless takeover.

There was some fighting on Monday on the eastern and western approaches to Sirte. Some have speculated that Gadhafi and other senior regime figures may have fled there.

Reports from AFP and AP

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NDF presses release of all political prisoners

By DJ Yap

AT EGS visiting his detained comrades at Camp Crame in Quezon City, the chair of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) peace panel yesterday pushed for the release of all political prisoners anew and hinted that "negative actions" by the government side were impeding the peace process.

Luis Jalandoni said recent statements by the government panel's chief negotiator Alexander Padilla on the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (Jasig) terming "inoperative" had cast a cloud on whether the peace talks would resume in September or not.

"So I see it, the Sept. 12 talk is now unclear because of those delaying actions and these statements coming from Alex that are actually invalid, null and void, and beyond his authority," he told reporters after his visit to the Philippine National Police (PNP)'s Custodial Center.

NDF consultants

Jalandoni, accompanied by his wife Ma. Concepcion Ledesma and two others, denied Padilla's claim that some of his colleagues Alan Jazmines, Eduardo Serrano and Edmarlo Encarnacion, who are treasurer, and an organizing chapter of among others, rebellion, murder and arson.

"They are NDF consultants and [duly] approved. Thus, it is the government's obligation, in accordance with the Jasig, to release them. Their arrest and detention are violations of the Jasig," he said.

He said the three were among 13 political prisoners held by government whose release they were demanding.

"These 13 must be released so the peace negotiations can resume. There must be respect and compliance with agreements and already signed and approved by the principals of both sides," Jalandoni said, noting that such agreements were purportedly reached in the Oslo talks in January and February.

Jalandoni said Padilla was "very very wrong" in declaring that the Jasig was now inoperative.

Binding and effective

Now Padilla cannot declare unilaterally an agreement by the principals of both sides. That is binding and effective, and one panel or panel chair or even the adviser on the peace process cannot just declare the agreement inoperative," he said.

Jalandoni said that Jasig could only be terminated by written notice of one principal to the other, adding that this happened only once in 1995 during the administration of former President Joseph Estrada.

He said the NDFP was also no more than willing to discuss "social and economic reforms, political and constitutional reforms" during the peace talks.

"But has been suggested to Alex Padilla that such talks on social and economic reforms be taken up during the Sept. 12 to 16 talks in Oslo. What he has told media is also very wrong that we don't want talks on social and economic reforms," Jalandoni said.

Committed to peace

But the NDFP negotiator said they remained "determined and committed to resume the peace talks, if not on Sept. 12, then perhaps in October."

"The Norwegian government is prepared to continue brokering the talks," he said.

Asked about the release of prisoners if any held by the New People's Army, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, Jalandoni said this was a "separate arrangement."

The NDFP, the CPP and NPA have records of prisoners of war who have been released. And all prisoners of war are given humanitarian treatment in accordance with the Geneva Convention," he said.

Jalandoni said the Aquino government must show "strong political will" in order to advance the peace negotiations. And all political detainees should be released without any objections from the military.

Wikileaks: Dutch, PH gov'ts conspired to build case vs Joma

SISON

In 2007 CABLE from the United States embassy in Manila quoted then Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo as saying that the Philippines had been working for several years with the Dutch government to build a case against exiled Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founder Jose Ma. Sison.

The unclassified Sept. 4, 2007 memo was sent to the US State Department by then US Ambassador Kristie Kenney, and recently released by Wikileaks , the online whistleblower.

Kenney said that Romulo had visited his residence for a private breakfast on Sept. 3, during which he requested clarification on the recent arrest of Sison by Dutch authorities.

"[Romulo] said he and Cabinet colleagues had been working with the Dutch for several years to make sure the case they built was good. They were delighted to finally have Sison behind bars. Romulo said that given the US interest in prosecuting terrorists, he hoped we'd be prepared to assist the Dutch with Sison, if the Dutch so requested," Kenney reported.

On Aug. 28, 2007, Dutch authorities arrested Sison, who was living in exile in Utrecht, on charges filed by the Philippine government for the alleged murder of his comrades in the CPP-New People's Army Satur Tabuni, former New People's Army commander and Alex Boncayao Brigade head, respectively.

The NPA is the guerrilla arm of the CPP while the ABB is a breakaway group from the NPA.

Sison was, however, released from prison two months later. The Dutch government later said there was not enough evidence to charge Sison for the murders of Romarate and Tabuni.

In April 2009, then National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales said the Philippine government wanted Sison's extradition to "signal" Sison and send him back to the Philippines to face murder charges.

"Sison may be free now from the suit against him in Dutch courts but not from the arm of our own justice system," Gonzales said.

Late last year, Sison told the Inquirer he hoped to "go home soon." That is, "if the peace talks under the Aquino administration would succeed."

"I will have role here as peace negotiator in a foreign (neutral) venue according to the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees)," said Sison, who has been banned by Utrecht since the mid-1980s. Jerry E. Esplanada

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Road to partnership

EDITORIAL

SO FAR, so good. As President Aquino embarks on his four-day state visit to China, the two countries, of late engaged in a word war over competing claims to the Spratly Islands, have struck the right notes of warmth and cordiality to set the mood, so to speak. Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines Liu Jianchao has written Mr. Aquino an effusive letter welcoming him to his home country and predicting that Mr. Aquino's visit "would mark a new beginning of refreshed endeavor in

being China-Philippines relations to a new high."

Malacañang and the Department of Foreign Affairs, for their part, have taken pains to tamp down any talk of tension between the two countries, saying that the Spratlys dispute "is not the main total of Philippines-China relations." President Aquino has even gone as far as to liken the two countries' recent troubled relations to that of a married couple. "Perhaps I can use the analogy of marriage. It is said that there are couples who have been together 50 years and they are still getting to know each other. So, perhaps the conflicts provide an opportunity to know the text that makes for a stronger relationship."

Should that all these buoyant diplomatic niceties, and Mr. Aquino's folksy reassurances, translate to a successful state visit by the President. One that not only ends up bringing in the economic rewards of ramped-up Chinese investments in the Philippines but, more significantly for this country's frayed nerves, also gives Mr. Aquino and his advisers valuable, clarifying insight on how China actually wishes to proceed on the thorny question of the Spratlys.

Because, if Mr. Aquino had only pursued his novel line of thought that the Philippines and its giant neighbor are indeed akin to a married couple that's given to the tamad—even boneheaded—squabble every now and then, he'd have arrived at some unwelcome conclusions. First, for a healthy marriage to thrive, one partner can't bully the other around, or resolve problems by flexing brute forces. Mutual respect is the foundation of any sound relationship—a willingness, at the very least, to consider the other's point of view soberly and openly, without resort to threat, blustery or intimidation.

In interviews with media, Mr. Aquino has often come across as an off-the-cuff, even liberal, speaker, eager to share his thoughts in as plain a manner as possible. For this trip, before the powerful officialdom of a country that puts a premium on the appearance of courtesy, ritual and public honor, he would need all the diplomatic restraint he can muster to be able to speak delicately, but with unmistakable resolve, about how China has behaved rather grandiosely toward the Philippines and its Spratlys claim.

When it was recently reported, for instance, that the Philippines had built shelter for its troops on one of the islands, China's response, through its main Communist Party paper People's Daily seemed unnecessarily harsh and belligerent. "Some countries will pay for misjudging China's sovereignty," it said...In addition, "Manila obviously lacks the sincerity to peacefully address the South China Sea issue."

A statement, to say the least, that takes some good amount of gall to say. China itself having unilaterally built much bigger structures on the disputed islands, from which its sea patrols have reportedly harassed Filipino vessels and fishermen in the area. And while it has declared that the dispute should be settled peacefully, through the give-and-take of diplomacy, it has adamantly refused any form of international arbitration on the issue, even as it has dramatically raised tensions in the region with incendiary warnings against other claimant nations, backed up by palpable displays of naval force such as the recent landing of its first aircraft carrier.

The contours of affinity and attachment that have undergirded relations between the Filipino and Chinese peoples should provide a measure of optimism that the two countries, for all the rash talk, would eventually reach a sort of détente on the issue; and from there, a viable resolution that would allow each party to leave the negotiating table with its sense of national pride and honor intact.

But for this to happen, Mr. Aquino, representing a country that is no match to China militarily but certainly its equal in patriotic fervor, must urge, forcefully if need be, greater transparency and clarity of intention on the part of its government. Communication, after all, is one other key to a good and lasting partnership.

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Better waste disposal system needed

AS I SEE IT

Neal M. Cruz

NOW FORMER mayor Lito Atienza is complaining that there's no "living" when it hit the city that never sleeps, even not as strong as produced by the nearest hostess. They said that because of the advantage, they had to do things that proved to be embarrassing—serving pressed meat, fresh windows, lining up for hours at supermarkets in a panic-fueling to groceries, buying plenty of batteries and gasoline for expected shortages, and drawing up contingency plans to evacuate the bayou of their apartments to be safely away from flying broken glass when the hurricane winds break the windows.

"After all the preparations and the hoopla over TS," one New Yorker gasped, "it was all for naught."

People will always complain. The people of New Orleans also complained that they were not warned enough when another hurricane dumped sand and flooded the city. They said they were not told that the hurricane would be that strong. Now the New Yorkers are griping that they were treated sacrilegiously. Drained 11 pounds, drained 9 times a day.

In the Philippines, the people of northern Luzon are complaining that they were told Super typhoon "Juling" would not hit land but curve during the subsequent some provinces, killed a number of people, crumbled mountainsides, flooded the fields ready for harvest, and cut off electricity in many towns. The television cameras in Baguio City where several houses were buried in a landslide not of rocks and earth but of missing garbage. A whole family was buried alive. Think of it: being buried in a mountain of trash. That's the opposite kindly.

Yesterday, in a press release, the garbage dump was on the verge of a hill and the farmers were for leave. Shouldn't it be the other way around, the people on top and the dump below?

The collapse of the trash-dump mountain as of the collapse of another mountain of garbage in Payatas, Quezon City in the height of another storm. Rained, too, were people sleeping in their shanties below. Some victims were never found. Local government units say that the scavengers themselves should have learned from that tragedy but obviously they didn't.

The government should really look again at our garbage disposal system.

The passage of the Clean Air Act has stopped the burning of garbage in incinerators. Which led to the establishment of many garbage dumps, a number of which have reached their saturation point. One of them is the Payatas dump, which is the "mountain" of garbage that collapsed in a landslide during the typhoon. Many of the residents there had been warned about the danger of living on the side of the mountain of garbage but refused to leave their shanties because they had no other place to go. Many of them were scavengers who eked out a living from the garbage.

There are many residents in the world of what to do with garbage dumps and our public officials should study what's best for us. There are cities that have turned their dumps into parks. Dumps are fertile grounds for trees and plants to grow.

Some cities are using garbage for reclamation. And some use them for private preservation, as in having those who can afford it build on the ripple where there's trash thrown in trash.

Negros has long been with no less the governor, there is no wondering to opportunities. Biogas to the methane produced by decomposing organic matter. It is produced by allowing rotting trash in a dump. That is why most garbage dumps emit stench. The methane among the garbage is smoldering, burning the trash around. The biogas is channel by sticking pipes into the trash mound; the gas comes out of the top of the pipe. Then is like natural gas, or liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and can be used to generate electricity or cook food.

The new residents generate plenty of organic waste. If we put a biogas tank underneath each number and dump the market's organic waste there (no plastics and styrofoam please, because they do not decompose), biogas would generate the market's power needs for free and thus save us precious dollars for the importation of crude oil. That will also greatly reduce the cost of garbage disposal/trash. After some years, the dump at the bottom of the tank can be used as organic fertilizer, which is odorless.

Bill back to the typhoons and the garbage dumps. Pagasa (the weather bureau) should apply a phrase will let the Philippines in the coming months. Even when there are no storms, the monsoon rains bring in much rain that landslides are frequent. And the many garbage dumps festering over the shanties of scavengers and farmers are accidents waiting to happen. Scavengers like to have their shanties near the garbage dumps so they can be near their means of livelihood in all crises. But this is against their best interests. They are putting their lives and that of their families in garbage dumps. Local governments must do their share in efforts to resettle them away from the danger zones.

And LGUs should not overfill their trash dumps so that they won't serve the surrounding areas.

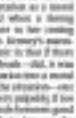
Finally, I want to go back to my original premise that the government should devise a better garbage disposal system. Obviously, the present one is not enough. Separation by homeowners of their trash into organic and non-organic is an ideal arrangement. But very few homeowners are doing this despite a law mandating it. As a result, the volume of garbage being thrown into garbage dumps is growing geometrically.

Already, many streams, rivers and waterways are being filled with trash by what is called "guerilla garbage missionaries." These are commuters who are tipped by LGUs to dispose of their trash, no questions asked. The LGUs get rid of their problem but they create new problems for other communities and the environment in general.

Unfortunately, President Aquino and other top officials would rather close their eyes to new growing unsavory problems.

Weak

THERE'S THE RUB



Conrado de Quiros

TOME WHO a functioning thing Wikileaks revealed recently which the Inquirer picked up last Monday. The one about former US Ambassador Kristie Kenney's take on Cory Aquino.

Kenney's cable to the US State Department was dated July 2, 2009. It wasn't that Cory was dumb. If and had little hope to recover. "Revealed as relentless taking the mantle of power as a difficult moment in Philippine politics and at a time of great personal loss, President Aquino leaves behind an incomplete transition to democratic governance," she wrote, while marked by great personal frustrate for Philippine citizens, never seem to have properly taken root in the institutions that must handle the difficult task of governing a diverse and divided society."

Counting from a very high moral ground, Kenney said, Cory had her reputation as a moral crusader tarnished by her association with "dubious political figures such as President Estrada" after she left office with Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. That made her only "a qualified moral leader."

In any case, the morality about did not go very far. "Cory's moral leadership, while central to an important title for the Philippines, never fully complemented by her weak leadership style."

Weak almost give an arm to throw away the US Embassy's current assessment of P-Noy is that I'd never run for another day.

Kenney's assessment of Cory is precise for two things.

The first is what it says about Cory. Which was almost totally refused less than a month later, as other Cory died and changed the face of the country all over again. Practically the only thing Kenney got right was that Cory had sent him in the grave and would seem have both of them Both.

Evidently, though Kenney was the one US ambassador who made it a point to try to get along with the Others, or be seen as such, giving radio shows and appearing at one point in Bonoan-ness, she actually hated or at least disliked Pinoy. At least though she knew enough about the subject to say it to her subordinate—she passed herself off wonderfully as "forgetting nuances." "Performing individuality as usual"—she never knew enough about it to understand it.

Certainly the nation did not see Cory as merely a carnal icon of modesty when it turned out to grieve for her when she died. It did not see Cory as someone whose importance as a moral crusader would be tarnished when she got embroiled her sisters so being her to her coming place while the heavens wept. Kenney's assessment is particularly richly ironic in that if there was one thing Cory—or her friends—did, it was precisely to shield the institutions—once the Church could insist as Kenney palpably it has not in such matters—into a hands-between-good and-evil. Between Cory and Gloria, between the premise that was her son and the curse that was her successor.

It wasn't just Cory who ruled that day Arroyo did too. The one going straight to heaven and the other straight to hell.

But for more interestingly is what Kenney's cable says about herself. Or about the US Embassy, Or about the US position on the Philippines. You really have to thank Wikileaks for giving you a glimpse into the American governments mind.

Kenney's proposition (the first) had a "weak leadership style" may be arguable. But the US Embassy has always had a settled concept of what a leadership style that is not weak is. Under various ambassadors, that embassy massively supported Ferdinand Marcos, even rooting for him over Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's so-called Marcos' affection to democracy. Under Kenney that embassy supported Arroyo, the ambassador being noticeably seen in there (no plastics and styrofoam please, because they do not decompose), biogas would generate the market's power needs for free and thus save us precious dollars for the importation of crude oil. That will also greatly reduce the cost of garbage disposal/trash. After some years, the dump at the bottom of the tank can be used as organic fertilizer, which is odorless.

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Conrado de Quiros

TOME WHO a functioning thing Wikileaks revealed recently which the Inquirer picked up last Monday. The one about former US Ambassador Kristie Kenney's take on Cory Aquino.

Kenney's cable to the US State Department was dated July 2, 2009. It wasn't that Cory was dumb. If and had little hope to recover. "Revealed as relentless taking the mantle of power as a difficult moment in Philippine politics and at a time of great personal loss, President Aquino leaves behind an incomplete transition to democratic governance," she wrote, while marked by great personal frustrate for Philippine citizens, never seem to have properly taken root in the institutions that must handle the difficult task of governing a diverse and divided society."

Counting from a very high moral ground, Kenney said, Cory had her reputation as a moral crusader tarnished by her association with "dubious political figures such as President Estrada" after she left office with Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. That made her only "a qualified moral leader."

In any case, the morality about did not go very far. "Cory's moral leadership, while central to an important title for the Philippines, never fully complemented by her weak leadership style."

Weak almost give an arm to throw away the US Embassy's current assessment of P-Noy is that I'd never run for another day.

Kenney's assessment of Cory is precise for two things.

The first is what it says about Cory. Which was almost totally refused less than a month later, as other Cory died and changed the face of the country all over again. Practically the only thing Kenney got right was that Cory had sent him in the grave and would seem have both of them Both.

Evidently, though Kenney was the one US ambassador who made it a point to try to get along with the Others, or be seen as such, giving radio shows and appearing at one point in Bonoan-ness, she actually hated or at least disliked Pinoy. At least though she knew enough about the subject to say it to her subordinate—she passed herself off wonderfully as "forgetting nuances." "Performing individuality as usual"—she never knew enough about it to understand it.

Certainly the nation did not see Cory as merely a carnal icon of modesty when it turned out to grieve for her when she died. It did not see Cory as someone whose importance as a moral crusader would be tarnished when she got embroiled her sisters so being her to her coming place while the heavens wept. Kenney's assessment is particularly richly ironic in that if there was one thing Cory—or her friends—did, it was precisely to shield the institutions—once the Church could insist as Kenney palpably it has not in such matters—into a hands-between-good and-evil. Between Cory and Gloria, between the premise that was her son and the curse that was her successor.

It wasn't just Cory who ruled that day Arroyo did too. The one going straight to heaven and the other straight to hell.

But for more interestingly is what Kenney's cable says about herself. Or about the US Embassy, Or about the US position on the Philippines. You really have to thank Wikileaks for giving you a glimpse into the American governments mind.

Kenney's proposition (the first) had a "weak leadership style" may be arguable. But the US Embassy has always had a settled concept of what a leadership style that is not weak is. Under various ambassadors, that embassy massively supported Ferdinand Marcos, even rooting for him over Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's so-called Marcos' affection to democracy. Under Kenney that embassy supported Arroyo, the ambassador being noticeably seen in Arroyo's company in various functions, official and social.

Cory never really allowed democratic governance to take root in the institutions that handle the difficult task of governing a diverse and divided society." Well, not for lack of trying. And certainly not for being an impediment to it. Unlike Kenney, unlike the US Embassy, "Boss did not help, they witnessed.

What institutions could be more vital to ruling a divided country to interpreting a diverse society than elections? Yet Cory spoke to Comelec through the Filipino, including Cory, were up to arms about it, the American ambassador was more concerned about it. So was Cory, for that matter, and like the bishops under Archbishop Fernando Capalla who said, "Everybody deserves anyway," Kenney found nothing wrong with it.

Of course she would always have said that it was not her business to judge elections. It was not her business either to make it look like "friends-forced-to-Gloria." Of course she could always have said that it was not the US Embassy's business to meddle in the affairs of the country. But if so, what was she doing in Manila campaigning for what was tantamount to be the chairman of the Bangsamoro Republic?

The reason I qualify Kenney's failure to appreciate the depths of the public angst against Arroyo with "shortsighted at best" is that it was largely foreordained. No one could possibly have missed the Deeper dimension of their fake presidency. Quite simply, to her predecessors did with Marcos, she couldn't care less. In fact, Kenney, like Marcos, was eminently preferable in that a Filipino despot who secured American support was one who could be squeezed to support—in ways that redefine the fabled Filipino hospitality—Arroyo was positively willing to give up bits her Mindanao for that support. Marcos instead was just upholding a state-favored American interest in the region. "He didn't mind that she's an SOB, so long as she's our SOB."

That was what made Cory, who wasn't, weak.

The mystery of the missing container vans

ANALYSIS

Armando Doronila

NEARLY 2,000 container vans disappeared in broad daylight inside the Bureau of Customs Commissioner Angelito Alvarez while those were being transshipped from Manila to the Port of Hongkong between May and June this year. Within 45 days, the vans were missing at the rate of 33 vans a day.

After this extraordinary movement didn't catch the eye of Alvarez or anyone his custody in the biggest recovery ever to happen on President Aquino's "National Day of Valor," the agency's alert system was a big embarrassment to the Administration.

Most of a mystery is the way Manila-bay is handling the failure of Alvarez to explain satisfactorily this disappearance.

On Monday, P-Noy apparently let up with Alvarez's shortcomings, confirmed he had found a replacement to the commissioner, after he said he was "no longer happy" with him.

Thereby, after the President confirmed he had picked a new commissioner, Alvarez should be had unscreened a huge "asset" involving the missing give last year of more than 3,000 shipping containers purportedly to raise election campaign funds for the Arroyo administration. This challenge years to be an affront to blame the past administration for the failures of the present administration by Alvarez to shield the Aquino administration from responsibility for the disappearances. Alvarez assumed the government lost hundreds of millions of pesos in revenue from the so-called "scam," "why the President kept him in office instead of the one would replace Alvarez—even though Malacañang sources had told the reporter earlier that former Mandaluyong City Rep. Benjamin Robles Rivera had accepted the Bureau's collector's position, a decision that Alvarez is entitled to make. Alvarez assumed responsibility for the disappearances. Alvarez assumed the government lost hundreds of millions of pesos in revenue from the so-called "scam," "why the President kept him in office instead of the one would replace Alvarez—even though Malacañang sources had told the reporter earlier that former Mandaluyong City Rep. Benjamin Robles Rivera had accepted the Bureau's collector's position, a decision that Alvarez is entitled to make.

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Alvarez named the importers in Lolo Internet, owner of San Pedro Trading, 3,004 Circle of LCD Trading, and Cecilia San Diego, manager of Meridian Enterprises. Also charged in the complaint filed by the justice department were importers Teresita Sicat Gerbasio, Marilyne Reyes and Claudette Ilagan who "assisted in the processing and facilitation in the release of the now missing consignments." Alvarez also recommended the filing of administrative charges against 14 Customs personnel, including deputy port collectors Jose Ephraim and Ramon Hernandez of the Port of Manila.

These actions failed to save Alvarez from the axe. It is said he has removed from office last month. Alvarez said calls for his removal from office were "undue and undeserved." He said these came from certain sectors whose smuggling activities were being curtailed by his campaign to crush drug and smuggling. It also has his predecessor Lina Laviña, Senator Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's choice for the appointment of Alvarez for having committed a "limited sin" when he had given his assets in the Bangko Sin Tuanmanong. The Alabang Golf and Country Club, Inc. (AGCCI) reportedly handed Alvarez from playing at the club for six months, and also suspended him from participating in a tournament for five years. Despite these, Secretary Purisima backed Alvarez's intention in the Cabinet. He said that Purisima had called him for a meeting and said, "Purisima, there's a serious. There are many people angling for your post. My advice is for you to stay put here. At the end of the day, performance will be the one that will be considered." Ironically he failed to deliver results.

Still the main reason for the disappearance of large container vans has proven to be an inexplicable mystery giving rise to speculations that the President is covering up for controversial key officials.

Alvarez said the missing vans were part of the 2,339 vans that arrived in the Port of Manila for "manifestation" purposes. The vans had not cleared Chief Supt. Jose Tuliongco, to ascertain what happened to the cargoes. According to Tuliongco, the Asian Terminals Inc. has given him a copy of the trucking companies which supposedly delivered the vans to the Port of Manila. Alvarez said the list of the vans "did not match" the records of Alvarez and Jose Alvarez said a report from the Bonsupro port collector showed only 300 vans arrived at the port of destination. "Apparently the cargoes were not brought to Batangas and only the documents were presented by the brokers." The arguments of some companies offer the vans forgot," Alvarez said. The President was not very angry about he said Alvarez. He allowed him to open his fiery side. He has remained phlegmatic. He does not know until now where the vans mysteriously ended.

The 'serve at the pleasure' club

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

SO IT seems part of the "serve at the pleasure" club. After days of being silent on that controversial phrase, officials now say volunteers they've invited to leave office, or compared to be soon are packing.

Outgoing Customs Commissioner Angelito Alvarez announced last Monday last week, following a report published in this paper, that former congressmen and defeated senatorial candidate Ruffy Biazon would be replacing him. "He (Biazon) seems to have been finished," he told radio interviewers. "But I'm not the President, though. Alvarez seemed purposely sensitive, admitting that since President Aquino himself had announced that he was being replaced, there he had no choice but to bow out, though without dropping a last barb. "I'm not the President, though," he said, adding that he was, while he listened on the previous administration.

And then followed that loaded phrase, "I serve at the pleasure," meaning, Cabinet members are at any one's call to walk away the minute the president, who appointed them, loses his trust in them.

Much has been made of how sudden the announcements were, such that Alvarez had to be informed by the media about his dismissal from Customs. But if indeed one "serves at the pleasure," then one should be ready to give up one's post any time and not harbor ill feelings about breached promises.

To be fair, Alvarez came under fire almost since the day he his name was announced for Customs. It began with reports of how he dressed as a golf enthusiast, and went on to the issue of his golf club membership, and his spouse, Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, blamed the bad press on vested interests whose profitable smuggling operations were being stopped by Alvarez's crackdown. Then, as we have noted, it wasn't as much as he had up as the underperformance of the Bureau of Customs that led to his ouster.

So far, Malacañang has yet to formally confirm if indeed Biazon will succeed Alvarez. But Biazon should have learned plenty from Alvarez's brief stay in Customs. And one of those lessons is that it isn't all "pa-pogi" that counts, the rather perfect tenure. Nor has he besieged on all sides by factions in Congress. Most of the great ground gingerly due to one of the most powerful men in Alvarez, and only one newspaper (businessworld) called a spade a spade, describing the story: "Aquino sacks Customs chief." Other media treated the story in a normalized way, giving space to the government's scandalous explanations.

Rest offered to present himself in a good light. Alvarez said he had filed smuggling charges against 16 people—including three importers, and three customs brokers for allegedly conspiring in the disappearance of 1,950 container vans while there were in transit to the Port of Batangas three months ago.

Alvarez said importers in Lolo Internet, owner of San Pedro Trading, 3,004 Circle of LCD Trading, and Cecilia San Diego, manager of Meridian Enterprises. Also charged in the complaint filed by the justice department were importers Teresita Sicat Gerbasio, Marilyne Reyes and Claudette Ilagan who "assisted in the processing and facilitation in the release of the now missing consignments." Alvarez also recommended the filing of administrative charges against 14 Customs personnel, including deputy port collectors Jose Ephraim and Ramon Hernandez of the Port of Manila.

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'Piloncitos' and the 'Philippine golden age'

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

MITA SIXTE economics in turmoil, those who worry about paper money losing their value have turned to precious metals like gold as a safe haven for part of their savings. The Filipino has turned to the first things to the part their funds in gold jewelry or accessories. We must admit that a painting by Botticelli, Rembrandt, Luna, Amorsolo, Hidalgo, Nolasco de la Rosa, Rodrigues or Herrera provides more aesthetic value than a few grams of gold. Nobody hangs their stock certificates, passbooks and banknotes on a living room wall, and hope to impress. Gold bars or gold certificates are not displayed in museums. You never read that we classic adornments of the fashionable, can't we work.

Pursued by Filipino collectors, covered in gold accessories, are 1903-minted gold coins with the profile of Alfonso XII. Why are these coins with the profile of Alfonso XII as an effigy? Why not the profile of Alfonso XII as an effigy? Why not the profile of Alfonso XII as an effigy? Why not

Best discussed in negotiating table

LETTERS

THE PHILIPPINE Ecumenical Peace Platform (PEPP), the broadest ecumenical formation of church leaders advocating mutual peace negotiations between the Philippine government (GPH) and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), is shocked over recent statements that don't augur well for the resumption of the formal peace talks.

After the spate of hope created by the GPH-NDFP formal peace talks last February with its issuance of the Feb. 21, 2011 Oslo Joint Statement, three media statements, which came from Sen(r) JPM Power Panel chair Alan Peaflor and NDFP Peace Panel spokesperson Fidel Agcaoili could result in another postponement of the talks, which have already been postponed last June. Yet many fear another postponement could effectively derail the peace negotiations.

The latter chair triggered the exchange was the the release of NDFP consultants who, the NDFP claims, are covered by the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (Jasig). That NDFP called for a postponement of the talks last June to give GPH time to release the consultants. The GPH has already released four consultants, but the NDFP insists that GPH frames the Ms. 21 Joint Statements by releasing all consultants covered by the Jasig. The GPH recently teased that until the reciprocal working committees on Comprehensive Agreement on Socio-Economic Reforms (Caper) shall have completed the common interim agreement on social and economic reforms, the talks will be postponed indefinitely and there will be no formal talks on issues concerning the Jasig. This in turn was seen by the NDFP as a move to consider the negotiations.

In this light, we would like to appeal to both panels to iron out their differences and proceed with the formal peace talks. We believe that it is time to engage in principled debate across the negotiating table. We urge both sides to abide by their own ratification of the validity and binding effect of all previous bilateral agreements, as stated in the February Joint Statement. This includes the Jasig, the latter previously framed that both panels "...following the spirit of the Jasig as it is crucial issue around the formal peace talks" and that "...in faithful implementation of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law, both parties to ensure the negotiations is serious."

[Namely, the issue on Jasig, Become the Formal Peace Talks" PEPP Statement, June 9, 2011]

One of the major developments last February was the setting up of a timeline for the negotiations. For advocates, the schedules indicated in the timeline can be the guideposts to peace. We call on both panels to work hard in order to meet the proposed schedules. If both sides abide by this, and try to build bridges instead of hurdles, and we believe that—through principled negotiations—our country will enjoy what the Psalmist promised, "a future passes those who seek peace" (Psalms 37:37).

—MONSIGNOR BIENVENIDO S. GERGUIT, SR., D.D., head of the secretariat
ARCHBISHOP ANTONIO J. LEDESMA, S.J., DD
and BISHOP EFREN JOSE ITOS BUENAVISTA, DD
co-chairpersons,
Philippine Ecumenical Peace Platform

Double-barreled accuracy

THE AUG. 12, 2011 issue of the Inquirer carried a story about an incident that took place in front of the Philippine Army Headquarters in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. The story was entitled "Soldiers open fire on Lapu-Lapu day revelers" and was written by Jaymee C. Arboleda. The story was published on page A2 of the Inquirer.

The story reported that a group of soldiers opened fire on a group of revelers who were celebrating Lapu-Lapu Day in front of the Philippine Army Headquarters in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. The story was based on the testimony of a witness who was interviewed by the reporter.

The story was published on page A2 of the Inquirer. The story was written by Jaymee C. Arboleda. The story was published on page A2 of the Inquirer

Lawmaker, bishop back Palace ouster of customs commissioner

By Cynthia D. Balana and Philip C. Tubeza

A MEMBER of the House of Representatives and a Roman Catholic bishop backed President Aquino's decision to remove Customs Commissioner Angelito Alvarez.

"It is high time that the President made the decision because if we were going to leave it to Alvarez to resign, he will not do it," said Zambales Rep. Mitos Magsaysay, who's upset by a staunch critic of Mr. Aquino.

Magsaysay, a member of the House of Representatives' committee on ways and means investigating the smuggling scandal, said bone-chilling for the occupation of thieves.

"I am relieved that the President has finally opened his eyes to the realities in the bureau because not taking action would fuel the agency in the long run and this would hurt the government's revenue generation drive as well," she said.

Fundraising

Before leaving his post, Alvarez uncovered a huge scam involving smuggling of three tanks of containers to raise election campaign funds for the previous Arroyo administration, which he said was the "tipping point" in the sars smuggling campaign.

"We hope it is an attempt to salvage his reputation in perhaps it is just his way of hitting back at the former administration, because it is up to President Aquino to direct the extraction from the customs bureau headship for customs administration now," Magsaysay said.

Talking to Chancellor Sandra Wells, Archdiocesan Auxiliary Bishop Francis de Leon said: "If the President says that Alvarez was not performing well, particularly on smuggling, then it was time that he replaced him."

Political reasons

"It will help the government in that the revenue collected by (the customs bureau) would go up," he added.

But retired Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz, criticized Mr. Aquino for "putting political reasons above ethics considerations or choosing the next customs commissioner.

"For me, this is the most faulty rationale of appointing administrative-level non-career officers (that) have something to do with development," Cruz said at The Forum, a Church-sponsored media activity at the Redemptorist Seminary in Intramuros, Manila.

Cruz said Alvarez's reported replacement had no experience in missing revenues.

"If you put him there, just wait and we would have more anomalies because he would still have to study. It would be like taking driving lessons," Cruz said.

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EARLY FAVORITE Miss Philippines 2011 Shamcey Supsup arrives at the Davao de Oro International Airport in San Pedro on Monday. The Miss Universe pageant will be held in San Pedro on Sept. 12. Bookies at two online betting services showed the Philippine beauty and her late representative as the favorite of the pageant's online global fan voters. Supsup graduated magna cum laude from Mindanao State University of the Philippines and also topped the board exams for architecture. AFP

'Watch out for Friday 3 p.m. habit' at Customs

From page A1

boat rib door Why until the smuggling case Mindanao of orbits, including a Harley Davidson motorcycle stolen from a high-level congressman.

Earlier this month, Alvarez exposed the disappearance of over 2,000 containers from the port of Manila, which resulted in huge foregone revenues for the government.

Confirmed

On Monday, President Aquino confirmed that he had chosen a new customs commissioner who, he said, had ended a few days of quiet before announcing his name.

Incumbent sources said the President had asked former Mandaluyong City Rep. Socrates Freitas "Rudy" Biazon to head the BOC and that the latter accepted the job two weeks ago.

Malacañang spokesman and Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima had talked with Biazon even before the President had told the media that he was exploring the latter.

Deputy presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte said she did not know whether Mr. Aquino spoke to Biazon. "I do know that Secretary Purisima had been in touch with Commissioner Alvarez prior to the President's announcement (the other day)," she said.

In television interviews yesterday, Biazon said he had yet to be officially told that he had been hired.

Package deals

Lacson said he was not wondering everyone employed by the BOC. "When I say inside is outdated I encompass, in many instances, 100 percent of the workforce," he said.

The interior would not disclose percentages observed in the during of bribes. However, Lacson said he got an update that "package deals" in which importers are charged P150,000 for each container that leaves the port area with-

ALVAREZ His official word put at his fling.

LACSON: The most popular smuggled items are rice, sugar and cars.

out an inspection "you now go down to an hour or P150,000."

"The point is to speed up inspection and for the container van to leave as quickly as possible. This is how shabu and Cartimar enter the country," he said.

He said the most popular smuggled items were rice, sugar and cars.

Bigger story

Lacson dismissed reports of accomplishment requests released to the media in which the BOC announces related shipments.

"Why don't they declare the shipments that they refuse to confiscate because that's the bigger story," he said.

"Do you realize how many containers enter the ports of the entire country in a day? About 2,000 to 3,000 containers! If the correct people were P1,000, or even just P2,000 for each container, imagine how many crores there will go to," Lacson added.

Transshipment point

One of the issues that Alvarez's replacement should investigate right away is why goods coming in Manila are listed not as a transshipment point, he said.

"Transshipment is cursory, only when the goods are transferred a good distance from one point to another. But Manila to Batangas? What's the point?" Lacson asked.

There are suspicions that BOC-issued transshipment permits have become a legal cover for smuggling.

The latest issue exposed by Alvarez involved only P3.7 million was paid to duties and taxes by persons that imported 108 (4.7 90 containers granted such permits last year. A total of 3,046 containers were released and will be examined by. With reports from Christine O. Avendaño

Passing ultimate test: Abduction by gunmen

From page A1

Ramon Magsaysay Award for innovative, and fair opinion, engineer Eduardo Ranhoff, were searching for prospective project sites when they were surrounded by men brandishing AK-47s and large knives.

The gunmen, including some women rebels in the group had been running. Mindfreed them, found their hands, and demanded 2 billion rupiah (about P225,000) in exchange for their freedom.

Thinking the gunmen, who proved to be husband: "Are you at peace?" He replied: "Yes."

"Where he said 'yes,' I was pleased," she recalled, but once and hands unmasked in the surprised her actions.

"It was their ultimate test. It's really committed to work for the poor?" said Mangmut, who was given year's highest honor for her efforts to bring electricity and other benefits of development to the rural parts of Indonesia.

"I hope I passed the test," said the 47-year-old development worker. "For me, death is a destiny. It's really something that really is in God's hands. God gave me all the privileges in my life, meeting great people, meeting the poorest of the poor and even those people in the jungle."

Mangmut said her fellow

hostages, almost one by one, were released after their families paid ransoms. Only she and Ranhoff were left.

"They said, 'Remember, make sure to bring the money within 24 hours. Don't tell the police or (if) you and your husband's head,'" she said.

Mangmut hustled to the town and frantically called her friends and family members for help to raise the money.

Eventually, she was able to "bargain" with the kidnappers by phone to lower the ransom to a little over 100 million rupiah (P80,000).

A friend who was working in a bank helped her raise the ransom. "My friend told, 'You're crazy. You're doing all this work in those dangerous places. Look what happened,'" Mangmut said.

"I was thinking, 'my friend is right,'" she said, recounting how she had turned for his work. This is the first kind of work that we have to continue for a longer time," she said.

Her valiant also served as a signal to Mangmut that her worst was not over.

Back to a father who was an economist and a mother who was a social worker in Seattle, Washington, Mangmut grew up in the 1960s of rebels. She roused refugees in social economics and immersed herself in rural development work upon finishing her studies.

In 1998, she married Ramon Ranoh, who had helped form the short-lived Sarasan Maradeka, the first Indonesian non-government organization to promote hydropower technology for community development.

With his technical expertise and her entrepreneurial abilities, the young couple established in 1999 the People-Centered Business and Economic Institute, with the Indonesian name Lembaga Ekonomi Kerakyatan) to develop micro-hydropower systems for impoverished rural communities.

The challenges were daunting. Mangmut struggled with corruption among regulations, complex financing requirements and the demands of rural communities to work.

Thus, she drove for a full year between working at the level of the highest government offices and reaching out to the poorest communities that would ultimately benefit from Ranoh's projects.

Mangmut's group accomplished this through "a community-based development approach that goes beyond the technology to the socio-economic empowerment of communities."

Much to be done

Ranoh organized electric cooperatives, trained villagers in technical management and resource conservation, and gave other support to communities.

Mangmut also successfully lobbied for changes in state policy to allow independent micro-hydropower plants to sell electricity to the government's national grid.

From an base in Salatiga, West Java, Ranoh has built 86 micro-hydropower plants with capacities ranging from five to 250 kilowatts. The plants now provide electricity to half a million people in rural Indonesia.

But Mangmut said a lot more needs to be done. Some 28,000 villages remain without electricity, especially the remotest ones, including the forests of Bandung in Aceh, where she and her husband were captured three years ago.

"My husband taught them how to make a micro-hydro because he's an expert so do engineering and the engineering side," she said, referring to the time she spent training the former rebels.

"On my side, I coached for them. I had discussions with them about how to empower rural communities," she said.

Turbine or gun?

Mangmut said she tried to convince the group that they were so blessed with the natural resources in their depend on and to teach them how to tap energy from those using hydropower facilities.

"I told them that making a turbine and getting a weapon in the same thing. I just wanted to see different results. If you make a turbine, you will become a new hero in your villages, but if you make a weapon, what for?" she said.

But eagerness with her abductors did not discourage her and her husband from pursuing their mission to uplift lives in impoverished places.

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Turbine or gun?

Mangmut said she tried to convince the group that they were so blessed with the natural resources in their depend on and to teach them how to tap energy from those using hydropower facilities.

"I told them that making a turbine and getting a weapon in the same thing. I just wanted to see different results. If you make a turbine, you will become a new hero in your villages, but if you make a weapon, what for?" she said.

But eagerness with her abductors did not discourage her and her husband from pursuing their mission to uplift lives in impoverished places.

"To become a huge corporation by not to be able to find a way to teach those people," she said.

Mangmut said she believed those things would help her achieve her purpose: patience, commitment and love for the cause.

"Sometimes we don't need much money. People need to find people with good hearts. Big hearts will lead us to solve our problems," she said.

Assistant Editor Tony Gerochi

Across the NATION

Landslide kills 2 in Olongapo City

OLONGAPO CITY—A woman and her daughter were killed while five others were injured on Tuesday when a boulder dislodged by a landslide fell on at least four houses in Barangay Sta. Rita here, a village official said.

Jerome Rasay, Sta. Rita village chair, said Valentyn Maxipal, 54, and her daughter, Maricyn, 32, died instantly when the boulder rolled down Mt. Balintopan and crushed their house at 9 a.m.

Rasay said the landslide was triggered by continuous rains here since Monday.

Mother and daughter were found a few meters from their house. Five other people were hurt and taken to the James L. Gordon Memorial Hospital here.

In the Cordillera, rains dumped by typhoon "Mina" took its toll on roads, isolating some mountain communities.

The Office of Civil Defense (OCD) reported that damage to infrastructure in Ifugao was P40.6 million. Prices of vegetables continued to increase by 20 to 30 percent because Habagat-triggered rains destroyed farmland.

Only Benguet and 20 municipal roads had been opened to traffic and Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) personnel were working to open 26 more roads.

The Baguio-Itogon flood was still not passable on Thursday, while work crews repaired stretches of road filled with mud, the DPWH said.

Bill closed on Tuesday were the Abra–Ilocos Norte Road, the Aparri–Baguio–Pinili–Basil, the Darvin–Calamagan Road in Aparri, the Nagtipunan–Barangay Bakyas Road in Benguet, the Mt. Province–Bontoc Road, and the Mt. Province–Cagayan Road.

In a report, Oliver Lacson, OCD Cordillera director, said the typhoon left 16 to wake in the region: 10 people dead, 11 hurt and five still missing.

In Baguio City, a stretch of Asin Road remained blocked by trash-washed mud by heavy rains from the city dump.

The city government started to clear up the road, and shipped 226 tons of garbage to a sanitary landfill in Urdaneta City amid Urdaneta City Mayor Amadeo Perez IV.

Perez said it was his city's way of helping ease the situation in Baguio City, when Mayor Mauricio Domogan asked him for help on Monday.

The Baguio government will pay Urdaneta P2,500 per ton of garbage dumped in its landfill, which is in a 17-hectare city government property in Barangay Catablan in Urdaneta.

In Pangasinan, the Dagupan City government announced on Tuesday the suspension of classes in the elementary level from Wednesday due to widespread flooding.

City administrator Vladimir Mata, in a local radio interview, said the decision was made after a meeting with local officials and officials. Classes will "work from 8 a.m. and private offices are scheduled to resume on Wednesday (Aug. 31) after the holidays on Monday and Tuesday.

As of Tuesday, 12 of 31 villages in Dagupan remained under 1 to 6 m more than 3 meters deep water.

Hadja Bernardo Pilon, an assistant of Dagupan Mayor Benjamin Lim, said the city's major streets remained passable to all types of vehicles but motorized boats had been deployed.

Pilon said high tide worsened the flooding in the city with water from the Lingayen Gulf entering the city's business district.

Flooded villages include Mabini, Bacayao Norte, Bacayao Sur, Lasip Chico, Lasip Grande, Lucao, Pugo Grande, Herrero-Perez, Bonuan, Salapingao, Tambac and Mamalingling.

On Monday night, some families were evacuated from the villages of Mabini, Mangin and Herrero-Perez due to rising floodwaters from rivers overflowing the city.

Officials of the San Roque Power Corp. said the 345-m has not released any excess water from the San Roque Dam in San Manuel town. At 11 a.m. Tuesday, the dam's water level was 273.62 meters above sea level (masl), which is more than 9 meters below its spilling level of 280 masl. *Reports from Robert Gamaga and Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon, and Vincent Cabreza, Gabriel Cardinoza and Yolanda Sotelo, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

BENGUET'S cabbage vegetables have become costlier in the wake of Typhoon Mina because farm roads have been struck by landslides.

Repair of good roads seen source of graft

LA PAZ, Tarlac—Right in President Aquino's home province is a potential source of corruption in the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH). The repair of roads that don't need fixing to squeeze money out of government.

Ricardo Ramos, executive director of the private watchdog InfraWatch, called attention to the supposed irregularity after checking a 500-meter span of the Tarlac-Sta. Rosa Road in Barangay Langcaysang here on Monday.

Bal Fernando Dungca, chief of the DPWH Tarlac district engineering office, said InfraWatch's allegation is a "definitely not true."

The project site is some 2 kilometers past the La Paz gate of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEx).

A taxpayers of DPWH announced that the project entails the rehabilitation of the road's surface pavement, worth P9.561 million. Another taxpayers contract the project in Tarlac Rep. Jeci Lapus.

"[There were] just hairline cracks [on the road so] there's no need to tear it down and [pave it with] concrete again, the asphalt overlay would suffice," Ramos said as he inspected the supposed damaged portion.

"This is part of the corrupt practices of the past. Why is the DPWH continuing it?" he said.

It is one of several similar projects in Tarlac, a list on the DPWH website showed.

As of Monday, a civilian contractor of the DPWH shifted trailer almost four to six inches wide on segments from the La Paz cockpit series and a little past an eatery where buses make pit stops.

Dungca said the repairs are being done for "preventive purposes."

"After resetting [the surface], we are resurfacing it. There are still just a leveling course, which is a two-inch thick layer of asphalt. We are now reinforcing it with geofabric and cover it [with] with a four-inch asphalt," he said.

"You can imagine what a being done to other roads in the country that are really [in] worse," Ramos said. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

WHAT FOR is when it's not broke? A watchdog group asks this question after seeing patches of good roads, like this one in La Paz, Tarlac, that are being drilled to be repaired by the same people who drilled them.

Fuel costs spark another transport strike planned for today

By Marinar Cinco and Mar Arguelles
Inquirer Southern Luzon

CALTONG, Laguna—Transport groups on Monday announced a plan to stage simultaneous strikes in Calabarzon, Bicol, Bulacan, Cagayan and Davao City today as part of a nationwide day of protest against rising fuel costs.

It will be the "second round" of protests across mass journey and tricycle drivers and operators paralyzed traffic in a region-wide strike last month.

Georgie San Mateo, secretary general of the Pagkakaisa ng mga Tsuper at Operators Nationalist (Piston), said the planned strikes would serve as "buildup" for a nationwide protest to be mounted in the coming months.

"Transport strikes will be held at the Calabarzon and Bicol while protests rallies will be held in Cagayan Valley, Iloilo City and other provinces," San Mateo said.

A caravan will target the offices of diverse oil companies—Pilipinas Shell, Caltex and Petron—in Manila, San Mateo said in a press briefing here.

Piston is protesting the delayed and shy adjustments in oil prices made by the so-called "big 3" despite plunging world crude prices.

"Some lawmakers already said that the rollback should be P5.50 per liter," San Mateo said.

Lando Mingo, chair of the Southern Tagalog Region Transport Organization (Stamo), said the groups were also demanding the scrapping of the 12 percent expanded value-added tax and the P9 per liter overpricing on fuel costs.

In Davao City Transportation Pistons demanded a P9 rollback in oil prices as it remains to lead a multinational-owned power in the city today.

Edd Gumanga, the group's secretary general, said his group would protest concerning increases in oil price and the P9.22 per liter overpricing on oil products in Davao.

"The government has turned blind and deaf on the people's dire economic conditions by allowing these companies to profit," he said. *With a report from Carmelita Lasconia, Inquirer Mindanao*

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND

INVITATION TO SUBMIT BID/S TO LEASE

The Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF), otherwise known as the Pag-IBIG Fund, is inviting bid/s to lease by way of individual Sealed Bid, real property (land) for commercial use with various sizes located at Manila Harbour Center, City of Manila.

The Terms of Reference and Bid Proposal Forms can be secured, free of charge, from the Investment Department, 8th Floor Justine Building 317 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, City of Makati starting September 02, 2011.

The Pre-Bid Conference shall be held on September 09, 2011. The schedule of the submission and opening of bids shall be announced during the said conference.

The HDMF reserves the right to reject any or all bids or accept such proposals as may be considered advantageous. Further, the HDMF assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify a proponent for expenses or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of its bids.

For further inquiries and/or information, please call Jose Rommel S. Bayan at 09163945284 or visit Pag-IBIG Fund Corporate website at http://www.pagibigfund.gov.ph or email us at jsbayan@pagibigfund.gov.ph.

(Sgd.) **EMMA LINDA B. FARIA**
DCEO, Support Services Cluster

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

BIDS and AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID

2,000 rally in Subic to protest coal plant

OLONGAPO CITY—More than 2,000 residents, local officials and members of nongovernment organizations formed human chains on the streets here to protest the planned construction of a coal-fired power plant inside the Subic Bay Freeport.

The protesters gathered at Rizal Triangle here and appealed to President Aquino to stop the construction of the 600-megawatt plant, owned by a consortium of energy firms led by Meralco Power, Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) and Taiwan-based Core Corp.

They cited the environmental impact on the project of the 20-million-cubic-meter coal ash pond in Orgas and Zambales and the lack of proper consultation for their opposition to the construction of the power plant.

Speaking before the group marched to the gates of the Freeport, Zambales Rep. Mitzigroni Magsaysay said the only positive thing about the project was that it erased political lines in the province.

"For the first time, we are on the same page fighting for the same cause," she said.

"President Aquino should heed the call of these communities because these are the people who will be affected by the operation of the coal-fired power plant," she said.

Among the officials who joined the protest action were Olongapo Mayor James Gordon Jr. and other city officials, Zambales Vice Gov. Ramon Lachica II and Subic Bay Rep. Hidilyn Diaz. Representatives of two port workers' and students' also joined the protest.

PROTESTERS gesture thumbs-down signs at a press conference in Quezon City against a planned coal-fired power plant inside Subic Freeport's, a former US naval base. CONCH BATOON

Diaz said: "There are no plans to a coal plant, it's still a mirage."

"We can't understand why the number of coal plants is increasing in the country. Our policy should be to recoal coal plants and move in the direction of renewable energy," he said.

Diaz said the plan's fast-going Malaysian firm filed a resolution in the House of Representatives asking for an investigation of how Alsons was given an environmental clearance certificate (ECC).

He said the issuance of an ECC to RP Energy, the corporate vehicle of the energy firms, "was very questionable."

"There was no consultation. According to the rules, there should be consultation. That's what we're trying to investigate, especially given the strong opposition here," he said.

Energy Secretary Jose Rene Almendras earlier endorsed the project, saying it was essential to boost the Luzon grid.

Almendras asked local government units to be reasonable so that the government would build such projects inside economic zones to prevent interference.

Gordon said the project proponents should look for an alternative location.

"We don't accept it here," he said.

Gov. Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. urged officials to give the project a second look and reconsider as "honest to goodness consultations." Robert Basilio, Inquirer Central Luzon

Comelec stops recall process vs Samar gov, vice governor

By Joey Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—The recall petition against Samar Gov. Sharee Ann Tan and brother Vice Gov. Stephen James Tan will be delayed as the Commission on Elections (Comelec) suspended the verification of signatures on the petition.

Lawyer Ma. Constancia Rivanal-Imas, provincial election supervisor, said on Tuesday that a Comelec order signed by Deputy Executive Director for Operations Barbahenz Guiwan Jr. has directed the Comelec office in Samar to "temporarily suspend" the signature verification process.

Based on the Comelec order issued by the Comelec office in Samar on Aug. 27, the inspectors have to wait the campaign period of the presidential candidates and now Transportation Secretary Mar Roxas at the Presidential Electoral Tribunal (PET) against Vice President Jejomar Binay.

The PET has written to the Comelec on Aug. 23 directing them not to proceed with the signature verification process, which was supposed to start on Aug. 29 and end on Sept. 20, to enable them to study the signatures on the recall petition against the Tacloban governor and vice governor.

According to Abbot Loiluna, the Comelec regional office director, he "is unaware the integrity of the book and lists of voters" so they would not conduct the signature verification process.

"They are not aware now that in course of the signature verification process, something could happen like possible loss of the book or lists of voters which are still essential to the pending protest at the PET," Montalbo said.

He said even the photocopying of the book and lists of voters was prohibited by the PET order, adding that there was no definite date when the suspension order would be lifted.

Montalbo also explained that the Comelec regional office would request the PET to issue a precautionary preventive order to allow the Comelec to continue the signature verification process.

The recall petition against Governor Tan has remained signatureless while that filed against her brother has 71,258 signatures.

The Tan siblings were being sought for recall due to their alleged "incompetence" to lead the province as they appeared to be following the orders of their mother, Rep. Nilda Tan, the province's former governor.

The recall petition against the Tan siblings was filed on Dec. 7, 2010, by Aurelio Bandoja (municipal local engineer) Governor Tan and Rhian Lopez (municipal engineer) against Vice Governor Tan at the provincial Comelec office.

The Comelec central office had ruled that the signature recall petitions were sufficient to form recall elections for the Tans. The Comelec en banc also declared the motion for reconsideration filed by the Tan siblings late Aug. 9.

Resort asked: Settle with kin of guest who drowned

By Redempto D. Anda
Inquirer Southern Luzon

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—The city government has asked the management of a resort operating near the Underground River to settle with the family of a woman who drowned while on a family vacation at the resort on his private beach.

City tourism officer Rebecca Labid said they are also waiting for the final recommendation from the city legal office which is looking into possible sanctions against Marcelina Beach Resort and Spa for the death of Ma. Cecilia Guerrero, a resort guest, in December last year.

The resort's handling is causing unfavorable impressions of the locality, complicating that Sheridan had inadequate safety measures that could have prevented the accident.

Dr. Robinson, a widow and mother of two children, drowned while swimming at sea in front of the resort along with a group of other resort guests, who all had figured in the accident when they were swept into deeper waters by a lifeguard.

"The matter was supposed to have been settled by the resort with the victim's family but it seemed the resort had not been too keen to resolve this," Labid told the Inquirer.

She added that City Mayor Edward Hagedorn had offered to help the management of Sheridan assist some of the documents for compensation such as the family "just to expedite the matter."

"The resort seems to have been lax in at least comforting the grieving family and has not been accepting responsibility for what happened," Labid said.

An investigation conducted by the Department of Tourism (DOT) at the behest of the victim's family indicated that the resort, which had just opened when the accident occurred, had no life-saving equipment.

According to the DOT report, the absence of a life-saving equipment in the ambulance that carried the victim to a hospital in the city which was at least 60 kilometers away, contributed to the failure to save the victim's life.

The Inquirer called the resort several times to get its side but received no reply. Labid, however, declared that the city was not inclined to order the resort's closure.

PLAYING SAFE
Boat owners in Quezon play it safe as the height of Typhoon "Pedro," nearing their vessels in Dalahican in Lucena City as the effects of the storm is swept past the province. ALVIN C. MALAGAR/INQUIRER CENTRAL LUZON

Solon distances new province from family feud

DEPUTY Speaker Arnulfo Fuentebella, principal author of House bill No. 4820 seeking the creation of the new province of Nueva Caceres from the fourth and fifth districts of Camarines Sur, reiterated on his bill had nothing to do with the feud between father and son Villafuertes.

"Nueva Caceres is all about uplifting the people of the 36 towns and one city comprising the Partido and fifth districts from poverty and giving them a better future," Fuentebella said in a statement sent to the reporters.

Fuentebella, representing the fourth district of Camarines Sur, said the new province is expected to be classified as another first-class province with its own elected provincial officials.

"The idea of Nueva Caceres is no spin-off the current thing," he said. "It is the product of rigorous and detailed studies."

The Fuentebella bill, co-authored by three other Caceres congressmen, namely Rep. Leonardo Luis B. Villafuerte Sr., Rolando Andaya Jr. and Dato Arroyo, was overwhelmingly approved by the House recently by a vote of 229-1, with Caceres Fifth District Rep. Salvio Fortuno casting the lone dissenting vote.

"The so-called feuds and enmity the Villafuertes did and figure of all is not true. This is a purely socio-economic issue, not a political one," Fuentebella said.

3,000 gather in 'show of unity' vs Camarines Sur split

CAMSUR officials, led by Gov. Luis Raymund F. Villafuerte (fifth from right), gather at the province's convention center to show unity against the proposed Nueva Caceres town. CAMSUR PROVINCIAL INFORMATION OFFICE

By Jose Bonifacio Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

NAGA, Camarines Sur—Camarines Sur Gov. Luis Raymund "Lray" Villafuerte Jr. made a pitch to reject his opponents' move to create a new Camarines province by gathering a crowd of 3,000 supporters at the Camarines Sur Convention Center here on Tuesday.

The crowd included lawmakers, at least 200 councilors and 2,000 barangay officials from Camarines Sur's 28 towns and lone city.

By a vote of 229-1, the House of Representatives passed House Bill No. 4820 on Aug. 8, carving a new province to be named Nueva Caceres out of Camarines Sur.

If senators approve it and President Aquino signs it into law, a plebiscite will be called for residents of Camarines Sur to vote on the new province.

Under the bill, the proposed Nueva Caceres would be composed of the 1st to even 5th district, and the 2nd district, currently represented by Villafuerte's wife, Camarines Sur Rep. Luis R. Villafuerte, is third district.

While introducing his 27-year-old son, tipped to be his successor for the top post in the province, Lray slammed Deputy Speaker Arnulfo Fuentebella (fourth district), their fellow congressman, for his continued attempt to create a new province to punch his family's grip on power.

The governor said the fourth district of Camarines that, at the Partido area, which has been dominated by the Fuentebella for over a century now remained poor and underdeveloped.

Villafuerte Sr., a third-term congressman, has also announced his intention to run for governor in the 2013 elections, a move which will put him against his grandson.

INQUIRER Northern Luzon
Editor Juan Bautista
Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

Mountain of garbage haunts Baguio

By Vincent Cabreza and Desiree Caluza
Baguio City

BAGUIO CITY is celebrating its 102nd Foundation Day tomorrow, but it may be an event haunted by the stench of garbage.

Every rainy season, when residents of the summer capital are flooded, public blame always falls on uncollected garbage and undisciplined residents.

But on Aug. 27, however, it will be the faces of Noemi Carl, 21, and her brother, Johnie, 19, that will hound the city.

The siblings died on Saturday along with three of their neighbors belonging to the Flores family, when a section of a decommissioned dump was washed out by heavy rains, and buried their houses on Asin Road in Tuba, Benguet.

Their mother, Josephine, said residents could treat her children's deaths as lessons.

"If only [the city's] waste segregation [program] was effectively implemented, my children would still be here. Just by looking at that mountain of trash [in Barangay Irisan], we know that [the program failed] ... The [dump was piled high with garbage that was shaped] like a pyramid—the highest I have ever seen. It was a pyramid of biodegradable wastes, plastics and bottles," Josephine said.

DAY'S OF STINK. It could take weeks for work crews and volunteers to clear Asin Road of garbage that toppled last weekend from an inactive Baguio City dump.

Same sentiment

It is the same sentiment aired by residents and officials of Asin and Irisan, who sue Baguio officials on Monday to determine who was accountable for the slide.

They were suspicious of reports that the dump had been inactive since 2000, the year the residents barricaded the area to force the government to shut it down because it was on the verge of collapse.

Their fears proved true. Since Sunday, dump trucks have been hauling trash that blocked Km 5 along Asin Road. The dump continues to erode due to heavy rains since Saturday.

On Tuesday, Mayor Amadeo Perez Jr of Urdaneta City in Pangasinan agreed to help by taking in garbage from Baguio for a fee of P1,500 for each ton of trash. Urdaneta operates its own environmental sanitary landfill.

An Asin resident said their neighborhood could plead with leaders of Baguio's 129 barangays to enforce waste segregation so the dump would "no longer grow bigger." Others said the city should start "moving the mountain of trash elsewhere," from Busol to Ambuklao.

Their doubts have cast a stain on new Baguio residents, too. Tuesday's trial garbage collection day for Mendez Subdivision, for residents who brought out their trash bags acknowledged some gaps "because we don't know if the truck is going to the right place now."

Moving a mountain

The reality which government employees dealt with each day after 2000 was that "the mountain of trash could not be moved," said Geraldin Lacsamana, city environment officer.

The community action that closed the dump in 2000 had caught the government off guard, and Baguio was soon engulfed by a garbage crisis.

Uncollected trash littered the streets for months until the city government resolved to spend up to P200 million to move out garbage daily to a commercial landfill in Subic from 2000 to early 2010.

In the meantime, city officers were desperate between resorting to declaring Benguet towns to approve the construction of an environmental sanitary landfill and pursuing a four-year closure plan supervised by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to decommission the dump and to convert it into a garden.

In the middle of 2005, Baguio officials decided to equip the City Environment and Parks Management Office with two Japan-made composting machines. Wastes, sealed in thermal tanks of the Environmental Recycling System (ERS) machines, convert sewage and organic wastes into powdered fertilizer.

The ERS machines were installed in the dump and have been operating for six months. The machines generated 330,000 kilograms of fertilizer as of July, and have apparently ended the garbage crisis that had put Baguio in vital light, Lacsamana said.

> In 2008, residents barricaded the Irisan dump to force gov't to shut it down because of fears that it would collapse

Scant attention

People paid scant attention to the dump itself as the city's solid waste management system improved.

Lacsamana said the city government spent P66 million to contain the mountain of trash, forming a green wall of compacted garbage and an eight-meter high retaining concrete barrier near its base.

Pugalis Moreno, Cordillera director of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), and his office gave this instruction to the city: "No part of the drainage system, much denser for [the] cement and base drains, including sweepholes, should be thwarted into a main drainage canal system to prevent the accumulation of leachate [and cause the] saturation of the waste and possible contraction and instability [of the Irisan dump]."

Moreno told the Inquirer that the EMB needed to assess if the city followed its recommendations.

Lacsamana said city personnel continued to fill in the wall with residual garbage to ensure its stability expecting to fulfill the closure plan by 2012.

But the government failed to resolve several issues necessary to complete the closure of the dump. It had to deal with a community of scavengers which eats a living from the dump, Lacsamana said.

She said some of these people have volunteered to join garbage trucks on their collection routes, helping sort in exchange for recyclable materials.

The government had already eyed the transfer of 16 households near the rehabilitated dump, but convincing them to leave required diplomacy, she added.

Some of the properties surrounding the dump are stationary structures. A few have been sold over the years to construction.

The Carl family, for example, is based in Barlig, Mt. Province. They bought their house below the dump in 1996. Noemi and Johnie Leon lived in that house for years while she pursued a nursing degree and her brothers took up a computer course.

Josephine said her family was always fearful about the mountains of trash hanging overhead and had participated in the effort to close the dump.

"We became calmer when the government finally decided to close the dump ... That ran for three years, and we felt relieved. There was no smell, odor and dust," she said.

Then the heavy rains and mountain of trash rolled down the mountainside toward Asin Road.

Moreno said an EMB inspection on July 28 showed that the city government had completed the facility's spillway, and the construction of a concrete net along the residence wall bore "no indication of defects as observed from the wall's planned surface."

Building a dam

Asin villagers have urged Domogan to consider building a dam instead to hold the trash, but city engineer Lea Bernardo said such an undertaking would force the government to relocate houses in order to acquire more space.

Lacsamana said a technology used on mine tailings dams may be studied to ensure that the garbage heap won't burst suddenly.

"In the past, [Noemi and Johnie's] would move out of the house temporarily and stay with relatives because it would be dangerous for them to stay in the house. They were not able to leave the house in time last week," their father, Leon, said.

The Carl couple had to hike through landslides along the Halsema Highway to Baguio to claim their children's remains.

Leon said he wasn't for rebuilding their house. "I don't think we would go back to that place," he said.

WOODCHIPPED. Residents of the Baguio village along Kilometer 5 on Asin Road have no one to call because of 14 tons of garbage that toppled over their community on Saturday

Aboitiz Invt'l tees off; Pagunsan pulls out

By George Lizares, *Contributor*

CEBU—The sons of Philippine golf open their bid for a breakthrough Asian Tour [illegible] four victory today in the [illegible] ($825,000) Aboitiz Invitational presented by ICTSI [illegible] at the Cebu Country Club here.

They will be going to battle without the red-hot Jhonl Pagunsan, though, after the former denies four rookie of the year and winner of four legs in the season's local pro tour pulled out at the last minute because of a foot injury.

Pagunsan's absence from the 72-hole tournament, the first PGT event so far scheduled in the tour, has thrown the chase for the championship wide open.

MAY winners Yuo Shang-kong and Chiang Chen-chih, both of Taiwan, stand at the forefront of the crack foreign challenge in the 156-player event.

Meanwhile, Elmer Salvador led his mates that also included Jhomik Cloa, Robert Yu and Joe Solsoraya to victory within a [illegible] in yesterday's pro-am.

Gene Boniface and teammates Ben Lozano, Bruce Cunningham and Noel Fleisher placed second with 56 while Andy Chu and partners Carol Gunning-ham, Bruce Wilmot and Geri Hugo Sobrevilla shot rounds of 57.

Also a finish-off-a-victory in the Bulletin's Taiwan Championship last week.

Also notably missing from the tournament are Angelo Que, who is eying to the Omega European Masters in Switzerland, and Frankie Minoza, who has a playing commitment in Japan.

The event, sponsored by Aboitiz Equity Ventures and presented by ICTSI, is backed by MJ Gee Golf Management, Inc., Arimo, Callaway Unlish, BMG Tshirts, Shasty, Customs Clubmakers, Mizuno, Empire Golf & Sports Shop, PrexyCalibrators, Incanto Golf, Dynasource International, A Board of Golf, Studio 23, Sulit, and Dynamic Sports.

SUPERT Salvador leads private team to victory

Fiery Stags eye 11th straight win vs Chiefs

By Cedrif F. Tupaz

JAN SEBASTIAN seeks to secure its status as a postseason berth in the 87th NCAA men's basketball tournament when it tangles with Jangerwin Arellano at the FIBA Hiyang V Arena in San Juan.

Game-time is 2 p.m. with the thugs looking for an 11th consecutive victory against an Arellano squad slowly picking up speed in the second round.

Letran battles Jose Rizal U at 4 p.m. with the Knights eyeing a ninth win that will put them half a game behind San Beda at second.

Running third with an 8-2 record, the Knights can create a three-way battle with fourth-running Lyceum with a repeat of their first-round conquest of the Heroes. The Knights routed the Bombers, 75-59, last Aug. 26.

Perris Mar is expected to be back in 100-percent after a bout with the flu as the 75-59 win over Arellano last week where he still scored 19 points.

The Stags are coming off their most lopsided win of the season, a 99-63 rout of Emilio Aguinaldo College—and will be heavily favored to repeat against the Chiefs, whom they stomped, 90-79, in their first-round meeting.

Stopping Calvin Sharma, Jan Sangalang and Ronald Pascual will be foremost in the Chiefs' priorities.

Sharma fired a season-best 34 points while Sangalang grabbed 21 boards, the most in four seasons, in the game against the Generals.

ADGER Federer tries a return vs Santiago Giraldo.

Winning start for Fed, Maria

NEW YORK—Roger Federer took aim at US Open [illegible] after an easy win, Maria Sharapova overcame a fright and Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova was eliminated at the US Open on Monday.

Federer was more worried about the playing surface than his opponent as he breezed past Santiago Giraldo of Colombia, 6-4, 6-3, 6-1.

Gael Monfils, Mardy Fish and Thomas Berdych also won in straight sets on a comfortable day for the big names in the men's draw. Serbia's Viktor Troicki was the only seeded player to lose.

Former champion Venus Williams, Yeta Zvonareva, Marion Bartoli and Sam Stosur also progressed.

Federer joined Andre Agassi on 224 victorious singles matches at Grand Slam tournaments, putting them equal second, nine behind Jimmy Connor's record total. Federer will next play Israel's Dudi Sela.

However the third-seeded Swiss showed he was still eager for more challenges, complaining that organizers had made the courts too slow.

"Maybe they did paint the room a bit too rough. It's just unfortunate that maybe all the Slams are too equal," the 16-time major champion said. "They should feel very different to the Australian Open, and now I don't feel it really does." AP

OTHER RESULTS: Women: [illegible] matches of Venus, 15, 7-5, 6-2; Sharapova, [illegible] Williams, 7-5, 6-4; Alexandra Dulgheru, [illegible] Zvonareva, 6-4, 6-4; Angelique Kerber, [illegible] Bartoli, 6-3, 6-4; Sabine Lisicki, [illegible] Stosur, 6-2, 6-4; Petra Kvitova, [illegible] Ekaterina Makarova, 6-4, 6-3; Caroline Wozniacki, [illegible] Daniela Hantuchova, 6-4, 6-3; Julia Goerges, [illegible] Francesca Schiavone, 6-4, 6-3; Marion Bartoli, [illegible] Yaroslava Shvedova, 6-2, 6-3; Agnieszka Radwanska, [illegible] Varvara Lepchenko, 6-3, 6-4; Maria Kirilenko, [illegible] Sorana Cirstea, 6-4, 6-3; Dominika Cibulkova, [illegible] Lucie Safarova, 6-4, 6-4; Kerber d. Lisicki, [illegible] Kvitova, 6-2, 6-2; Wozniacki d. Goerges, [illegible] Radwanska, 6-4, 6-3; Cibulkova d. Bartoli, [illegible] Sharapova, 6-4, 6-3; Dulgheru d. Shvedova, [illegible] Kirilenko, 6-4, 6-3; Men: Federer d. Giraldo, 6-4, 6-3, 6-1; Monfils d. Sela, [illegible] Berdych, 6-4, 6-4; Fish d. Troicki, [illegible] Tsonga, 6-4, 6-4; Andy Murray, [illegible] Ivan Dodig, 6-4, 6-4; Mardy Fish, [illegible] Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, 6-4, 6-4; Juan Martin Del Potro, [illegible] Marcos Baghdatis, 6-4, 6-4; Gilles Simon, [illegible] Feliciano Lopez, 7-5, 6-4; Olivier Rochus, [illegible] Nicolas Almagro, 7-5, 6-4; Almagro d. Rochus, [illegible] Simon, 6-4, 6-3.

Lebanon may join Jordan, Qatar in Manila 'friendlies'

By Jane Manaloo

LEBANON might join the national teams of Qatar and Jordan in a mini-training camp to be put up by Smart Gilas Pilipinas for its final preparations for the Gilas Asian Championship.

National coach Chot Reyes said negotiations are still ongoing to convince Lebanon officials to send their team to Manila for the series of friendly games on Sept. 8 to 11.

The Qataris and Jordanians have already accepted the invitation from the Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas.

Reyes said Lebanon's participation would allow Smart Gilas to gauge its chances against one of the toughest contenders in the Asian championship slated Sept. 15 to 25 in Wuhan, China.

Lebanon is expected to play former NBA physician Lorrie Woods, the 7-foot-2 basketball who was naturalized to match the length of defending champion Iran's Hamed Haddadi (7-7.5) and China's Sheng Zhizhi (7-1).

Reyes said the training games are vital since Talk 'N Text stars Jimmy Alapag and Ivan Ivi Williams have yet to join the team's scrimmages.

Smart Gilas assistant coach Andy Reque said Alapag and Williams are expected to join them on Sept. 7 or 10, days before the team leaves for the Asian championship, which makes a semifinal slot in the 2012 London Olympics.

ESTEBANO Rivera (front) passes Stefano Mantuli with hot laps to go.

Rivera posts double Petron ROK victories

ESTEBANO Rivera bucked engine trouble to thwart defending champion Stefano Mantuli in the fifth leg of the 2011 Petron Blaze Gasing Super Series at the Enchanted Kingdom Karting Circuit here Sunday, Laguna, over the weekend.

Rivera started last in the 15-kart Pro Finals because of engine trouble but still finished ninth.

He maintained his surge in the 20-lap Final race, securing the lead for good with four laps to go.

He claimed the ROK overall crown in 33 minutes and 01.139 seconds, just 0.095 second clear of Mantuli.

Oliver Aquino and Bryan[illegible] were [illegible] Mike placed third and fourth, respectively.

Rivera likewise capped the ROK Juniors class, beating Francis Reyes, Jude Calderon, CJ Tan and Daniel Mendoza.

Andrew Cabua edged the Formula 1[illegible] Expert class against a field that included three-time Karter of the Year Matteo Guidicelli. The same turned Junior's lone bagged down to the Final race, though.

The other winners were Theo Bautista (SQ Kart), John Effinger (SQ Expert) and Wilson Potash Ong (SQ Novice). Bautista then beat Bautista and Effinger to nail a ten-lap spell. Steve Silva, Contributor

PH bets among World Pool Masters faves

CRICELLO

REYES

BUSTAMANTE

FOUR Filipinos, three of them with world championships tucked under their belts, tangle with some of the world's finest in the 2011 PartyPoker.com World Pool Masters at the SM City North Edsa In-Store Bowling Center.

Dennis Orcollo, Francisco "Django" Bustamante, Efren "Bata" Reyes and Lee Vern Cortezo, who is coming off a win in the recent Malaysian Golden Break 9-Ball Invitational, will vie with 12 others for the $20,000 top prize.

The other stories are Japan's Fabio Akagawiyama, Britain's Darren Appleton and Chris Melling, Taiwan's Chiang Jen-ling, Malta's Tony Drago, Dennis Fe Jardin, Indira Rah Jotohil, Finland's Mika Immonen, Switzerland's Ronald Regli, Canada's Jason Klatt and Germany's Ralf Souquet.

The event will use the sum-of-4-and-winner's break format.

Asst. Manuel Marquez, the WBO-NBA lightweight champion who will take on right-division world boxing king Manny Pacquiao on Nov. 12 in Las Vegas, will grace the opening ceremonies.

Marquez will be in the country for the start of the fight's world promotion.

The World Pool Masters will be aired live by Solar Sports on Sept. 3 and 4 from 12 noon to 10 p.m.

Solar Sports is on Sky Cable channel 75, Destiny channel 35 and Cablelink channel 11.

SPORTSWATCH

'Showdown' 4-stag derby fires off Friday

A GUARANTEED purse of at least P600,000 is at stake in the 28th Showdown 4-Stag Derby which comes off the wraps on Friday at the Pinoy City Complex.

To accommodate qualifying trackers from the provinces in the annual derby, Intal Games Ty has pegged the entry fee at P5,000.

Interested parties may submit their entries from 7 to 9 p.m. for inquiries, call (02) 8421160, 8421140 or (0917) 5611300.

SPORTS TRACK. Sports and fitness buffs test their stamina and endurance in a sports and physical fitness [illegible] Ortigas in Ortigas. The Solaire/Mall's Sports Track, a one-stop venue for jogging, walking, aerobics and sports, also has a unique fellowship path. Details about the facility are available at www.solaire.com.ph. The facility also doubles as a dance center for dance sports and cheerleaders, among others.

New beginning ... from page A22

The right of first refusal at board-member teams in search of his from other ballclubs.

In order to keep the balance of power, the player salary cap of P350,000 a month was kept to P350,000 a month, with a minimum of P150,000 a month, unless first year with a maximum of 10 percent increase in the second.

Meanwhile, the format for the 10th Season opening on Oct. 2 with the Philippine Cup will be a repeat of conducted height playing in the Commissioner's Cup period conference) and a 6-foot-3 ceiling for the Governors' Cup.

Also during the same meeting, the board approved commissioner Chito Salud's plans and programs aimed at putting the league in the

SALUD. Younger audience

consciousness of a younger fan base.

"We will target the 11 to 16 bracket," Salud said over breakfast at the Holiday Inn Golden Mile hotel here. "We will campaign more in schools and provinces [more] because that is where these kids are these days."

Nietes seeks 2nd title vs Mexican

By Cedrif F. Tupaz

NIETES

DONNIE "Nonito" Nietes goes for his second world title when he battles Mexican WBC Mini-Flyweight champion Cristofer Rosales for the WBO light flyweight crown on Oct. 8 at the La Salle Coliseum in Bacolod City.

The 29-year-old Nietes, a native of Cebu-based Sta. Rosario Gym, since held the WBO mini-flyweight crown and successfully defended it four times, before moving up in weight this year.

Hoping to improve [illegible] in his [illegible] Nietes, who has won three fights in Mexico, said he will go for a knockout against Rosales.

"I just said to myself that I will go for a knockout," said the 19-fight challenger, who grew up in Murcia a town just outside Bacolod, at the PSA Forum at the Shakey's U.N. Avenue in Manila yesterday.

B-Meg taps... from page A24

The Santiaguan group, of which B-Meg is a significant unit, also made Ato Agustin as the head coach and gave its cabinet the 2002 Most Valuable Player to boost its coaching obligations with Tim Cone[illegible].

Del Rosario's appointment has generated an [illegible] reports in the San Miguel camp after Del Rosario resigned last week in a row with Jong Uichico a Barangay [illegible].

Indeed, after compiling a 29-24 win-loss record last season, will slide down as Del Rosario's assistant.

The appointment of Del Rosario comes in the heels of Tim Cone's reported resignation issue at Alaska, which means manager Jerico Tolentino should [illegible] right.

"What I know is that I intend to [illegible] Jerry Codiñera for the third [illegible] of our rookies," said Uichico.

Editor Tedoro L. Molmedoro
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Dalisay

SPORTS

JEN Manzano of Ateneo/Taking a camera's view a shot off Maryknoll's Nina Gallman in yesterday's game.

Lady Stags sustain run

Squeak out win over Lady Eagles to stay unbeaten

By Cedelf P. Tupaz

STEARNS where it mattered, San Sebastian stopped dreams in a thrilling five-setter last night to stay unbeaten in the quarterfinal round of the Shakey's Virginia Season 6 Open Conference.

The Lady Stags nearly squandered a run-set lead, before recovering their bearings in the deciding frame to complete a 25-20, 25-16, 26-28, 27-25, 15-9 victory at the PhilSports Arena in San Juan.

Another import Lauren Ford fired 32 points, including five in the fifth set, and Time Import Amy Bunke contributed 19 as San Sebastian (unbeaten) ran its third straight one in the quarterfinal round in an hour and 55 minutes.

It was the second straight five-set win by the Lady Stags, who also did the same trick against Navy last Thursday. And for the second straight game, Ford's fingerprints were all over the victory.

Unstoppable in the most important stage of the match, Ford scored the last three points for the Lady Stags, who have already locked up a berth in the semifinals, while pressing a second bout in three games on Ateneo.

Air Force, earlier, hammered out a 25-17, 25-17, 26-24 victory over Maryknoll for its first win in the quarterfinals.

The airwomen's win forced a three-way tie at third among Air Force, Navy and Ateneo. Only the top four teams at the end of the single-round quarterfinals will make the bout a Final-semifinals.

The Prince Tungcins, who remained winless in three games in the quarterfinals, actually threatened to stretch the match to a fourth set when they grabbed a 24-22 cushion on Xyrie Amarie Ali-A'ali from Ateneo and an ace by Amy Louise on their first set at 24.

Nina Ytoma, who scored three straight points to give the Airwomen a 22-21 lead in the third set, wound up with 15.

The Lady Stags had a chance to wrap up the match in the fourth set when they took a 27-26 cushion on Bunke's hit.

But the Lady Eagles, showing tremendous resolve, hit back with three straight points, capped by back to back kills from skipper Abdon to extend the match into a fifth set.

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CENTRO

New beginning for player-friendly PBA

By Marvyn B. Corcilla

DEL ROSARIO

B-Meg taps Benilde's Del Rosario

HONG BOND—Starting this season, the PBA will be "player friendly."

In a landmark decision of the league's board of governors Monday, the PBA will now allow players to become unrestricted free agents after six years in the league so they could chart their future.

Gone are the days when teams own the right of first refusal on their players, virtually making them career long commitments with practically no right to negotiate with other squads interested in their services.

That rule will now only apply to the players who will start their PBA careers—like JC Cantre and Ebel Lee, the first two picks in the Rookie Draft last Sunday—this year.

At the same time, the league also approved a P50,000 increase in the minimum pay of players per month, a P20,000 jump from the previous level.

The maximum cap stays at P90,000 but a year after the board members are set to adopt a proposal to make it P92 million.

Those have been several cases in the past—the Sturge Pinto issue being one of the biggest—in which players were unable to leave their mother ballclubs even after expressing their desire to leave.

Under the grandfathering clause with the Philippine Cup just more than a month away.

Del Rosario was named to an ailing lapidary on he could finish his commitment as head coach of the St. Benilde Blazers to the ongoing NCAA season.

Perez, who in 1989 became the league's only Rookie MVP, played his first years with Shell. At one point in the 1990s, though, he was unable to leave Shell in order to play under Robert Jaworski at Ginebra San Miguel.

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Editor Alexander B. Lherisey

DID YOU KNOW

TODAY, Aug. 31, is the 83rd birthday anniversary of Jaime Cardinal Sin, the late archbishop of Manila. Born Jaime Lachica Sin, he was a driving force behind two Philippine "people power" revolts. Ordained in 1954 and appointed to the See of Manila in 1974 at the age of 45, he became the youngest member of the Vatican's College of Cardinals when he was made a prince of the Church at the age of 47. Cardinal Sin died on June 21, 2006. **Yuhan Dominic Aquino Honorio**

FOR A 'CLEAN, HEALTHY' CITY POLICE FORCE

70 Malabon cops tested for drugs

By Bricio Felipe Maligaya

ABOUND 70 police officers assigned at Malabon City were ordered yesterday to undergo a drug test on the spot as part of efforts to rid the police force of drug users.

The "surprise and random" drug testing, according to Malabon police chief Senior Supt. Comelio Barrios, is in compliance with a National Capital Region Police Office (NPO) initiative which seeks to keep the ranks clean and national law enforcers "clean and healthy."

"Police officers are often drug lords, pushers and users and criminals in general. (In fact), they should be above (them)hood," Barrios told the Inquirer.

The 70 policemen were ordered at random by the chiefs of the seven police districts in Malabon, he said.

Those picked were then instructed to report to the main police headquarters in the city although it was only when they got there that they were informed that they were to undergo a drug test.

The number represented 20 percent of the total number of policemen in the city.

Malabon has around 280 police officers.

Barrios said the results of the test would be released by the Northern Police District crime laboratory next week.

"Should any of them be found to have used drugs, he may be stripped of his position and (properly investigated)," he added.

Yesterday's drug testing which began at 8 a.m. and ended at around 11 a.m. was the first to be initiated by the city police.

The previous surprise drug tests had been conducted by Northern Police District officials.

Barrios warned his men that more on-the-spot drug tests would be conducted in the next months.

BAY CLEANUP
Workers from the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and Manila City Hall rid Manila Bay of garbage.

SPD to throw book at policeman caught selling stolen motorbikes

By Mike Navales

THE SOUTHERN Police District (SPD) has expressed alarm over the involvement of one of its men who was caught red-handed trying to sell two stolen motorcycles in Caloocan City the other day.

In a statement, SPD spokesperson Chief Insp. Jenny Tecson acknowledged yesterday that PO1 Eduardo Lomboy was assigned at the District Public Safety Battalion.

The policeman was arrested on Sunday night with an accomplice who was identified as Jerome Bonsol.

SPD director Chief Supt. Jose Aziz de los Santos said he had ordered the district's investigation division to look into the possible administrative charges that could be filed against Lomboy who also faces criminal charges for violating the anti-hoarding law.

He "emphasized that [any police] personnel who [would be found guilty of] misconduct, serious violation of policy and abuse of authority have no place ... in the (SPD) organization."

Both Lomboy and Bonsol were arrested in an entrapment operation conducted by the Caloocan police. After receiving a tip from a concerned citizen about the duo's illegal activities, an undercover policeman contacted them and asked if they had any motorcycles for sale.

The pair then sold the policeman two motorcycles which turned out to be stolen.

De los Santos assured the public that "any form of abuse and violation committed by [SPD] personnel would not be tolerated and would be dealt with in accordance" with the rules on discipline.

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Makati to capture bad drivers via 'red light cameras'

By Tina G. Santos

BUILDING to improve traffic flow and road safety, the Makati City government has started installing "red light cameras" that can capture in video and still photos vehicles whose drivers commit traffic violations, including beating the red light.

Apart from catching motorists who disregard traffic signals, the new technology will also be used to monitor and record real-time incidents and occurrences like public utility vehicles (PUV) whose drivers wait for passengers or loading/unloading beyond the authorized time period in minimum of 15 seconds or drop off or pick up passengers outside of authorized loading/unloading PUV stops.

Makati Mayor Jejomar Erwin Binay said that the cameras would also be used to go after pedestrians who jaywalk or commit other traffic violations.

Binay said officials from the Australia-based QMS Traffic Systems earlier entered into an agreement to field test the devices...to be mounted next to a traffic light—for three months at no cost to the city government.

Under the memorandum of agreement, the equipment and system will be tested during the demonstration period and data gathered in controlled areas may be subjected to a feasibility study which will be the basis for a formal proposal. QMS may subsequently offer for the installation of the equipment and technology in the city.

Binay said the installation of red light cameras was in line with the recently approved City Ordinance No. 2011-010 which amended the city's traffic rules and imposes stiffer fines on violators, especially those caught driving under the influence of liquor or drugs.

Once the camera captures the image of a driver believed to have committed a traffic violation, the footage or photo will be sent to a nerve center which will process these as evidence should a case be filed against the violator.

Binay said a traffic violation center, accompanied by the evidences, would be sent by mail to the registered owner of the car/vehicle. There caught beating the red light, for example, face a fine of P5,000 and/or suspension of their driver's license.

Car stolen by burglars in Bulacan recovered by cops in Quezon City

By Pandapat P. Enriquez

A CAR believed to have been taken by burglars who broke into a house in Bulacan province during the weekend was found parked on Lires Road corner Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City the other day.

Workers spotted the Honda Jazzy (PHR 711) which had a flat rear tire at around 4 a.m. on Monday but it was not until yesterday morning when they reported its presence to barangay officials who called up the police.

The owners of the vehicle was identified as Joselito Nagar who, earlier, reported that thieves broke into his house in Sta. Rita, Bulacan, and made off with more than P1 million in valuables, including the car.

Supt. Ferdinand Villanueva, QCPD District station chief, said the car was towed to Camp Karingal where it remained as an object of police investigation.

Villanueva said the vehicle was stolen from the owner's residence in Sta. Rita, Bulacan, on Saturday (Aug. 27) between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. of the following day.

Investigators believe that the thieves used the car to escape after they broke into the house and carted away the valuables.

Villanueva said the car was found parked on the sidewalk of Lires Road by a resident who noticed that the vehicle was not moved for several days.

Police said the owner of the house reported the incident to the Sta. Rita police station.

Investigators said the thieves broke into the house through the front door.

Police officers who scanned the vehicle's interior found a screwdriver and a pair of gloves which they suspect were used by the burglars.

Police said they are looking into the possibility that the burglars may be members of a syndicate that has been victimizing residences in Bulacan province.

BONDING BY THE BAY
A mother and her child spend a few quiet moments near the breakwater in Pasay City as the sun rises to signal the start of a new day.

Men get life terms for killing student

By Julie M. Aurelio

A TRICYCLE driver and his helper face spending the rest of their lives in prison after they were found guilty of shooting and killing a college video student currently booked their path on Christmas Eve in Quezon City in 2002.

Angelito Gabriel and Dominick Montoya, the alleged gunman, were handed down life sentences for the murder of Roderick Bass who was just walking home after attending a party with a friend.

Judge Reynel Vargas of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 219 also ordered the two men to pay the family of victim P175,000 in damages.

Gabriel, a newspaper boy who moonlighted as a tricycle driver, was driving for Montoya when the shooting took place.

"Since the accused Montoya used a gun to shoot the victim-accused Roderick Bass, in the back, the killing of the latter was qualified by taking advantage of superior strength," the judge said in his decision.

The court convicted the two men based on the testimony of Gabriel's companion, a fellow student.

He told the court that he and Gabriel were walking home from a party on Campus Street in San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City, at around 2:30 a.m. on Dec. 24, 2002, when they encountered the two men.

He added that Gabriel's companion, Mhon Santiago, cursed them for blocking the road. A scuffle broke out between the two groups and Gabriel and Montoya left.

They later returned, this time with Montoya who shot the victim in the back.

3 Chinese vendors in hot water for beating up couple

By Jeannette I. Andrade

THREE Chinese vendors, including a sexagenarian, have been charged with ill-treatment homicide and violence against women after they were accused of beating up a couple following an argument over the placement of their goods inside a mall in Manila.

Manila Police District (MPD) Station 11 commander Supt. Ferdinand Quirante identified the three as Wu Feng Neing, 61; Zhang Ning Jie, 38; and Wu Ning Sie, 20; all pursuant residents of 168 Mall on Juan Luna Street in Tondo.

Quirante said the three were arrested after their fellow vendors, Michael and Vina Lim, charged them with violating Republic Act 9262 or the Anti-Violence against Women and Children law of 2004 and frustrated homicide.

The Lims, the station commander told the reporters, were treated for bruises, scratches and bumps on the head and body at San Juan de Dios Educational Medical Center.

Quirante said the couple were gauged up upon by the three at around 2:30 p.m. inside the mall.

Vina was tending to her stall when she noticed that the goods of the Chinese vendors, who were manning the stall beside hers, were covering up her wares and encroaching their area for customers.

She said she asked them to move their goods but the Chinese vendors refused and allegedly verbalized her. She added that a heated argument ensued in which one of the three Chinese vendors grabbed her by the hair and then hit her in the stomach.

When Vina's husband, Michael, saw what was happening, he tried to defend her but one of the three Chinese grabbed him and then slammed his head against the floor while allegedly threatening, "I will kill you," to Chinese, Michael told the police.

LONG WEEKEND
Children while away the last day of a four-day weekend by strolling around Rizal Park in Manila where they admire the monument of national hero Jose Rizal.

METROBRIEFS

Indian trader robbed

ERMITAGAN hotel yesterday had P50,000 worth of valuables to robbers who broke into his house in Mandaluyong City. Government Supt. Francisco Bacaoco of the Mandaluyong police identified the victim as Gurmeet Singh, Ghaze nationalist and resident of Barangay Plainview. Bacaoco said the Indian trader reported that he was away walking away from his residence at around 2 a.m. but he did not think anything out until he discovered the burglary. Stolen from him were an undetermined amount of cash, a laptop computer and cell phones. The burglary also took his immigration and identification documents. "The victim is now processing the issuance of his travel documents," Bacaoco said. He added that the Indian trader was no longer interested in tracking down the thieves and that he was only after recovering his immigration papers.

Nina Calleja

Fake media man arrested

A MAN who attempted to extort money from a businesswoman in Cebu, Sanson City, on Wednesday night was arrested in an entrapment operation. Senior Supt. Noel Palomilla, 43, of Barangay Kamputhaw, Banawhon, Cebu City, reported to have threatened a businesswoman of Cebu Plaza Drive, 12th and Circulation manager of Headline Nguson. He then asked Joel Aguirre, owner of a bingo outlet on Avenida Boulevard corner Mangyan Street, for P50,000 or he would have the establishment shut down with the help of his "media connections." However, Aguirre reported the matter to the Cebu police, which in turn set up entrapment operation resulting in Palomilla's arrest. The hapless called media, however, if Palomilla was an employee but as operator who refused to be named claimed that the man worked for the radio station.

Pandapat P. Enriquez

Beggar kills self

A 65-YEAR-OLD beggar killed himself before dawn yesterday at the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) compound in Manila. Where found, Wesley Calvio was hanging from a rope which had been tied around a portion of the rear end grills of the PPA Port Management Office at Rio St. Ibarbor Pier 2. PO3 Bernardo Cayabyab of the Manila Police District homicide section said the body was discovered at around 5:30 a.m. yesterday by security guard Joy Simon. Cayabyab said that Simon was on routine patrol around the PPA-PMO compound when he spotted Calvio hanging by the rope from a tree. The police investigator pointed out that Simon called out to the beggar but when he did not respond, the security guard decided to approach him. It was then that he found out that Calvio had killed himself. Cayabyab said that based on Simon's statement, Calvio usually hung out near the PPA-PMO office, begging for alms. He added that days before he killed himself, the beggar had been complaining of pain. The body was brought to a funeral home for autopsy.

Jeannette I. Andrade

Motorcycle thief nabbed

MAKATI policemen arrested a 30-year-old man who allegedly attempted to steal a motorcycle in Barangay Tejeros yesterday. Senior Insp. Renato Rodrigo, of the Makati City Police, identified the suspect as Bernardo Dalusa, of Gagalangin, Tondo in Manila. Initial investigation revealed that he was arrested at around 12:40 p.m. on Malugay corner M. Dacanay Sts. after patrolling policemen spotted him destroying the ignition switch of a motorcycle.

Tina G. Santos

Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
Judicial and Bar Council, Taguig City
...
The Commission on Elections (Comelec) – Taguig City Campaign Committee under Section 261 (a) (3) of the Omnibus Election Code, as amended, hereby announces that it will conduct a raffle for the purpose of determining the sequence of the candidates for the position of Member of the Sangguniang Panlungsod, particularly in Barangay Tuktukan in Taguig.

The Comelec – Taguig City Campaign Committee under Section 261 (a) (3) of the Omnibus Election Code, as amended, hereby announces that it will conduct a raffle for the purpose of determining the sequence of the candidates for the position of Member of the Sangguniang Panlungsod, particularly in Barangay Tuktukan in Taguig.

Raffling will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discriminatory criteria as provided for in the Government Procurement Reform Act (R.A. 9184) and its revised implementing rules and regulations (IRR).

Prospective bidders may be purchased by interested bidders at the amount of P5,000.00 from the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat, Room 201 of the Administration Building of the Taguig City University, Western Bicutan, Taguig City.

The Comelec – Taguig City Campaign Committee reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract without liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:
Ms. Maria Elizabeth C. Salud
Bids and Awards Committee
Administration Building, Taguig City
(02) 871-0460 loc 4125 and loc 125
(02) 871-0460 loc 4125 (Fax)
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INQUIRER

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Ganzon

'Irene' death toll rises to 46; worst came after storm exit

MONTPELIER, Vermont —The full measure of Hurricane "Irene's" fury came into focus on Monday as the death toll passed 46, while towns in the northern US region of New England battled epic floods and millions were still without electricity.

From North Carolina to Maine, emergency crews ran mid-week mop of the storm and hard to predict costs of events that caused the nation's biggest relief and insurance events, only to deliver a historic soaking to storm well in land.

In New York City, where people had braced for a disaster-movie scene of water cascading around skyscrapers, the subways and bustling streets were dry and empty again on time for the Monday morning commute. And in the suburbs of many New Yorkers, things were pretty smoothly.

But to the north, landlocked Vermont remained under a state of emergency called the worst flooding in a century. Dozens also raged out of control in rural, upstate New York.

In many areas, the imminent of mainstream dangers ordered until after the storm had passed, as rain-sodden soils and rivers drowned streets and turned them into torrents. Irene dumped up to 28 centimeters of rain on Vermont and more than 13 centimeters in parts of New York.

"We were expecting heavy rains," said Bobbi-Ann Aiott of Clarksville, a seaside area Albany, New York. "We were expecting flooding. We weren't expecting this much. It looks like somebody set a bomb off."

Irene killed at least five people in the Dominican Republic and Haiti. The first known casualty was a woman who died trying to cross a swollen river in the US territory of Puerto Rico.

Sharp rise

The death toll in the 14 storm-hit US states had stood at 21 as of Sunday night, then rose sharply to 44 total. All 46 bodies were pulled from floodwaters and people were swept by falling trees or electrocution downed power lines.

A dozen were missing after a road collapsed and swallowed two cars about 100 kilometers southeast of Montreal.

The tally of Irene's destruction mounted, too. As apparently recent losses exploded in an enormous cloud, flooded cars in Pompton Lakes, New Jersey, early Monday and firefighters had to battle the flames from a boat.

In the Albany, New York, suburb of Guilderland, police rescued two people on Monday after their car was swept away. Preserves found three more bodies, clinging to trees during the swollen creek.

"It's going to take time to recover from a storm of this magnitude," President Barack Obama warned as he promised the government would do everything in its power to help people get back on their feet. Obama signed an emergency declaration for Vermont, making federal assistance available for the entire state.

For many people, the aftermath could prove more painful than the storm itself.

LOCK IT in Bennettsville, New York (left), crawfishes seek a metal hanger to reattach one the gates on Monday during extensive flooding unleashed by Hurricane "Irene." —

RESIDENTS walk on Highway 17 (below) on Sunday after it was destroyed by Hurricane "Irene" in Asheville, North Carolina. —

In North Carolina, where Irene blew ashore along the Outer Banks on Saturday before heading for New York and New England, 1,000 people were still in rescues, power shelters, awaiting word on their homes.

At the same time, nearly five million homes and businesses in a dozen states were still without electricity, and utilities warned it might be a week or more before some people got their power back.

As the storm continued to march into eastern Canada, Irene brought strong winds, gusting over 90 kph, to parts of southern New Brunswick, northern and mainland Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

Environment Canada said the strongest winds were felt just east of Quebec City on Ile d'Orleans, where gusts of 113 kph were reported.

The impact of storm left about 140,000 power customers in Quebec without electricity on Monday, while tens of thousands more in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia were also waiting for the lights to come back on.

Up and down the Eastern Seaboard, commuters and train spouses found their travel plans scrambled.

Airlines resumed it would be days before the thousands of passengers stranded by Irene find their way home. —AP

Obama uncle held for DUI: 'I'll call DC'

FRAMINGHAM, Massachusetts —President Barack Obama's uncle was stopped on suspicion of drunken driving, told police he planned to message him through the White House and was being held without bail on an immigration detainer, authorities said on Monday.

Onyango Obama was arrested last week in Framingham, about 32 km west of Boston, after police said he made a rolling stop through a stop sign and nearly caused a crash with his sport utility vehicle.

Police said they also being booked at the police station, Obama was asked whether he wanted to make a telephone call to arrange for bail.

"I think I will call the 'White House,'" he stated, according to a police report filed in Framingham District Court.

Without bail

Police said Obama, who originally from Kenya and a the half-brother of the president's late father, pleaded not guilty on Friday and was being held without bail on a detainer from US Immigration and Customs Enforcement. In a court document, ICE said he had a conviction dispute him or to one of order.

The immigration arrest warrant for Obama was not confirmed, but such orders are usually reserved for people living in the country illegally.

His immigration detainer, used by ICE to identify people in jail or prison who could be deported, is a request to another law enforcement agency by an ICE agent to notify the federal government early to ICE can arrange to take over custody.

The president refers to his uncle as "Onyango Obama Mr. Obama," based on his late father and his 1988 trip to Kenya, to see Uncle Onyo, who matches Obama's background.

Slurred speech

Obama, 67, was charged with operating under the influence of alcohol, negligent operation of a motor vehicle and failure to yield the right of way.

Framingham police said Obama was arrested on Monday after he failed to stop at a stop sign and a police officer had to quickly apply his brakes to avoid hitting Obama's sport utility vehicle.

Officer Sal Iezzoni said in a report that Obama stunned his arresting officer when he revealed his other his son told that he was being stopped because he had failed to fully stop and could to traffic.

"I explained to him that I was only watched ordering his vehicle, and he told me that he didn't know my turn something so I was not being accurate," Iezzoni said.

Obama originally told Iezzoni he had nothing to drink but later said he had had two beers, Iezzoni added.

Iezzoni said Obama failed several sobriety tests and blew a reading of 0.14 percent on a blood-alcohol breath test, which is above the state's legal driving limit of 0.08 percent. —AP

WORLDBRIEFS

NZ Press closes after 131 yrs

WELLINGTON—New Zealand's national news agency, The New Zealand Press Association (NZPA), will cease its doors after 131 years on Wednesday. The latest victim of media consolidation in the digital age, Editor Kevin Norquay described the end of an organization that was once the voice of New Zealand journalism, disseminating vital factual of both domestic and world news to the country's newspapers. But after surviving a series of collapses over the past 10 years, Norquay said the decision to finally close NZPA was made in April, when the Australian's owned Fairfax group decided it no longer wanted to be a shareholder in NZPA or the New Zealand Press Association, which originally formed some in 1880. At its peak, in the latter half of the 20th Century, more than 170 New Zealand newspapers subscribed to the service and the agency had offices in London, Sydney, New York, Washington and Singapore. —AFP

Ban on Venezuela paper lifted

CARACAS, Venezuela—A Venezuelan court on Monday lifted an order that had barred publication of a weekly newspaper that angered allies of President Hugo Chavez, a day on for "The same old." NZPA has denied the newspaper Tal Cual temporarily stop publishing today, 23 after it put out an issue with a front-page photomontage depicting six high-ranking socialist officials and depicting them as cartoon characters. Lawyer Pedro Arroyo accused the court lifted the order because he said the newspaper's publication of terror images that are insulting to socialist officials or enemies. The weekly denied it broke the law. It published a photomontage depicting its "Chavez's enemies in power." It also depicted the Supreme Court president, the electoral council and four other members of boards as vicious dancers in revealing skirts and high heels. —AP

Drug war shuts Mexico schools

MEXICO CITY—Forty-nine weeks into the school year, 1.68 secondary schools in the Pacific resort city of Acapulco closed on Monday after teachers refused to show up for fear of execution threats and kidnappings by drug gangs. About 800 teachers in the state of Acapulco's municipalities said they were intimidated by recent cases of indiscriminate execution, said Julio Bernal, a local delegate for the southern Mexican state of Guerrero. Some 140 of the nearly 1,400 of teachers in Acapulco didn't open. "Two teachers and at least two of their years had been kidnapped on the outskirts of Acapulco in the past eight days. —AP

EU banning oil imports from Syria where troops shoot 7 dead on Eid'l Fitr

DAMASCUS—Syrian forces killed seven people on the first day of the Eid'l Fitr feast on Tuesday, activists said, a day after the EU announced plans to impose its first ever trade sanctions over the crackdown.

The Local Coordination Committees said in a statement that "seven people were killed on the first day of Eid'l Fitr in Hama, including four in the town of Al-Haara and two in Inkhil, in the Deera province. And one in the [central] city of Hama."

Deara is a flash point province in southern Syria where pro-democracy protests that have rattled the autocratic regime of President Bashar al-Assad first erupted in mid-March.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights meanwhile reported that "three people were killed and nine wounded when security forces opened fire to disperse a huge demonstration in Al-Haara after the [Eid'l Fitr] prayer" that mark the end of the holy fasting Muslim month of Ramadan.

The committees said protesters rallied against the regime after the early morning prayers, first are traditionally held on the first day of Eid'l Fitr, with protests reported in Hama, Deir'ezzor and other districts of Deara.

PROTESTERS calling for the overthrow of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad hold a placard depicting ousted Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi, right, and Assad with Arabic words that read, "Stop bush," during an Aug. 26 demonstration in Edlib province, Syria. —

It said a "huge" protest was formed as worshippers emerged from the Al-Omari mosque in Deara and marched to the town's cemetery. Mourners tenderly visit their dead on the first day of the feast.

In the Sanna village of Tasil, "children covered in the ash...behind of town's fallen clothes, fed a protest of some 15,000 people who emerged from the local mosque," the committees said in their statement.

The committees also reported massive security deployments in the central Homs province of Homs, and that positive was heard in the vicinity of the citadel of the city of Homs, where communications were largely cut.

On the first day of Ramadan on Monday, 17 people were killed by Syrian forces and dozens wounded as troops and security forces conducted raids in several areas across the country, according to the British-based Observatory.

The European Union reached an agreement in principle on Monday to ban oil imports from Syria to punish the regime for its crackdown on protesters, diplomats said.

"There is a political consensus on a European embargo of imports of Syrian petroleum products," a diplomat told Agence France Presse on condition of anonymity. —AFP

Panel: US research on STD killed 83 in Guatemala

WASHINGTON—At least 83 people died in Guatemala guinea pig-in-sensitive US research on sexually transmitted diseases in Guatemala in the 1940s, a commission ordered by President Barack Obama concluded on Monday.

Nearly 5,500 people were subjected to diagnostic testing and more than 1,300 were exposed to venereal diseases by hygiene officials in order to research meant to test the drug penicillin, the presidential commission found.

Within that group, "we believe that there were 83 deaths," said Stephen Heuser a member of the commission, which has probed only 125,000 documents leaked to the shocking episode since being set up by Obama last November.

Among the 1,308 people exposed to STDs during research between 1946 and 1948, "under 700 received some form of treatment at best or could be documented," Heuser said.

Obama personally apologized to Guatemalan President Alvaro Colom in October before ordering a thorough review of what happened. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton also cited the experiments as "morally unethical."

The testimonial was roundly expressed by the commission, which said US government researchers must have known they were contravening ethical standards by deliberately infecting mental patients with syphilis.

Commission president Amy Gutmann called it a "barbaric injustice," and said the inquiry aimed to "honor the victims and make sure it never happens again."

"It was not an accident from the beginning," in Guatemala," Gutmann said.

COLOM

OBAMA

"Some of the people involved said we could not do this in our own country."

The US researchers "unanimously failed to act in accordance with minimum respect for human rights and morality in the conduct of research," she said, citing "substantial evidence" of an attempted coverup.

A Guatemalan study, which was never published, came to light in 2010 of the US experiments. The Associated Press-led reported upon archived documents validating the experiment led by controversial US doctor John Cutler.

Cutler and his fellow researchers enrolled 1,308 people in Guatemala, including mental patients, for the study, which aimed to find out if penicillin could be used to prevent sexually transmitted diseases.

Initially, the researchers infected inside Guatemalan commercial sex workers with gonorrhea or syphilis, and then encouraged them to have supervised sex with soldiers or mental patients.

Neither were the subjects told what the purpose of the research was nor were they warned of its potentially fatal consequences. —AFP

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The first of these is Arya Residences, tree rising along prestigious McKinley Parkway, Bonifacio Global City, it is the first and only high-end residential condominium in the country built to achieve LEED Gold certification, a global standard of sustainability. Committing to this rigorous standard means building sustainability into every key aspect of its design and being monitored for compliance. Reputed certified "green buildings" are fast becoming the preferred destination all over the world. Arya Residences is "future-proofing" by pioneering its use.

The achievement will be in small but telling details. The building's design will optimize natural light and ventilation, reducing energy requirements in every space. Built-in dual piping will eliminate potable and recycled greywater more where. Residents will see energy savings of at least 14% and as much as 40% in water consumption. The Artha Land team tasty thrives with the pioneering challenge.

Sun Hari Artha Land Chairman Jaime C. Gonzalez and Vice-Chairman Ricardo S. Po Sr. are veteran pioneers in global finance and industrial manufacturing respectively. If their record successes have taught them anything it is the power of vision, commitment and total innovation. The cutting-edge technology in Arya Residences is a exciting testament.

"*To be future-proof, we have identified six principles to guide us in all our developments, one of which, is enabling technology.*" One such technology in Arya Residences is the use of a fiber optic backbone — currently the fastest way to send and receive data — to enable the convenience and luxury of "triple play" voice, video and data services through a single integrated and seamless service. Artha Land's partnership with IP Converge Data Center, in consultation with Cisco, will provide Arya residents future-proof connectivity, the full range of choice among network providers, and reliable 24/7 network service. All through one integrated service, at reduced cost.

At the end of the day, being a trailblazing developer, Artha Land defines future proof by developing projects that leverage on today's practices and technology to enable its residents to seamlessly adapt to the needs of tomorrow.

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Editor Raul G. Manalo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano
BUSINESS

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
Aug. 30, 2011
42.430

Gov't to refinance NFA debts

Ten-year IOUs may replace loans maturing this year

By Razonel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance is looking at ways of refinancing the bulk of the National Food Authority's outstanding debt, estimated at P150 billion, amid efforts to overhaul the agency's functions.

Finance Undersecretary Rosalia V. de Leon told reporters that most of those obligations were short-term and would fall due this year.

Dr Leon said the NFA debts that were scheduled to mature this year might be refinanced to recover them to longer-termed obligations.

"One of the options being eyed is a syndicated loan or a club loan," she said.

The official added that the prospective restructured debts would carry a

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Increased participation of private investors and lenders to grow investment flows into the housing market is central to this theme and anchored, in turn, on the confidence of the private sector in the soundness of mortgage practices and the integrity and marketability of mortgage securities. Mortgage loan portfolios, by themselves, do not inherently behave in a manner that renders them attractive to investors and creditors; the secret lies in sound origination and credit underwriting of the underlying home loans, loan servicing, and asset management to strike a balance between investor risk concerns and the demand for homes, access to credit and home construction. That is BFS' special niche and contribution.

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First Pacific income up 16%

By Doris C. Dumlao

INCREASED contribution from Philippine businesses boosted the net profit of Hong Kong-based First Pacific Co. Ltd. by 16.3 percent to $249.5 million in the first six months, compared to the same period last year.

The unaudited six-month financial results of First Pacific—a regional company owned by the Salims of Indonesia and led by Filipino businessman Manuel V. Pangilinan—showed recurring profit rising by 14.3 percent to $259.4 million year-on-year as a result of significantly stronger earnings by all operating companies in US dollar terms.

First Pacific reported that its profit increase in the first half was driven mainly by higher contributions from Philex Mining Corp., the Philippines' largest listed precious metals company and biggest copper and gold producer, and Metro Pacific Investments Corp., a leading infrastructure company.

Metro Pacific Investments contributed $31.4 million, up by 53.8 percent from a year earlier on robust contribution from its water distribution, electricity distribution and healthcare businesses.

Philex, meanwhile, saw a 481.3-percent jump in contribution to $21 million year-on-year on the back of higher prices of gold and copper, greater volume of ore milled and higher ore grade.

But First Pacific's current jewel is still Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., which contributed $135.4 million in the first half, up by 1.9 percent from a year ago.

"Our strong first half earnings are a result of continuing strength in the consumption markets and earlier investments made by the company are bearing fruit," said Pangilinan, who is managing director and chief executive officer of First Pacific.

Apart from being a major shareholder of the Philippines' biggest telecommunications company, it has oil and mining companies. First Pacific also controls Indonesia's biggest vertically integrated food company.

"The current volatile state of financial markets, persistent economic weakness in Europe and continuing fragility of the recovery in many parts of the US economy combine to temper national enthusiasm," Pangilinan said in a statement. "Still, we can bear in mind that [members of] the First Pacific Group of Companies are all strong businesses operating in growing markets and generating strong cash flows. This bodes well for our future profitability and cash flows."

Robust growth in PH businesses boosts H1 profit

Trading resumes today, mood upbeat

LOCAL STOCKS are expected to make higher than week in investors risk on the asset of optimism that swept global financial markets while local markets were on a long weekend break.

The equities markets were closed the last two days in observance of Heroes' Day and the end of Ramadan. Last week, the main share Philippine Stock Exchange index shed 0.76 percent to close at 4,201.56 on Friday.

"We have a lot of catching up to do," said Kaple Equities president Joseph Sisay.

On Monday night, US stocks posted hefty gains as the markets were relieved that damage from Hurricane "Irene" wasn't as bad as initially expected. At the same time, US Federal Reserve chair Ben Bernanke's assurances on the economy eased fears of the US falling into another recession.

Bernanke's statement that the US' monetary authority did not see any urgent need for a third round of quantitative easing (QE3) through bond buybacks boosted hopes that the US economy was not yet poised for a "double dip" recession.

Audrey Callaway A., a dealer at Asiecap Capital Equities Corp., said stocks fell last week with the PSEi going past the critical 4,300-support as investors opted to hold cash rather than remain overexposed.

"Easy culprits to the general pessimism continue to be the ailing US economy and recession fears emanating from Europe," Callaway said.

(Doris C. Dumlao)

Puregold opens new stores, targets 100

By Michelle V. Ramos

PUREGOLD Price Club Inc. is set to open five new stores today, pushing the supermarket chain closer to reaching 100 stores by the end of the year.

The five new stores scheduled for today's operations include are in Daraga City (on C. Bra-mandis Avenue), Sta. Rosa in Laguna (on Pearl Road), Tiaong in Quezon province and Los Baños in Laguna.

With these new stores, Puregold now has 77 branches.

The company said in a statement that the opening of the five new branches today was aimed at meeting the expanding market, given the growth in the economy and the population.

Puregold president Leonardo Dejoco said in a briefing that the company is on expansion mode, vowing to put up 25 more branches next year and another 25 by 2013.

Puregold is all set for its initial public offering on Sept. 21. It hopes to generate P13.4 billion from the sale of as much as 600 million common shares, and it intends to use the proceeds to finance expansion in the next two years.

The IPO will close on Sept. 29 and the listing is set on Oct. 5.

Gov't to refinance NFA debts

From page B1

sovereign guarantee and that the government was eyeing a tenor of 10 years.

Sy Leon said pricing for the new loans would be based on rates for government securities, plus a certain premium.

Asked how much would be refinanced through syndication, she said the amount would depend on the pool that interested financiers would make available.

Sy Leon said that because of the NFA's "money-losing mandates," the agency's debt had soared to its present level of P158 billion, of which P85 billion have already been restructured into long-term obligations, from P28 billion in 2003.

The accumulated debt was used for operations, and importation and procurement of rice, she added.

The ballooning of the NFA's debts had been a complication to no more mention in President Benigno Aquino III's first State of the Nation Address shortly after assuming office in 2010, where he made the agency's cure a business for his administration's fight against corruption.

Earlier, Budget Secretary Florencio "Butch" Abad said the Cabinet Executive had given the go-ahead for reforms in the NFA to address hard leakage and ballooning debt by stripping the agency of its core planting functions.

Abad said that, for example, the program of providing subsidized rice to the poor would be transferred to the Department of Social Welfare and Development through its conditional cash transfer program.

The budget chief said the DSWD, with its National Household Targeting System, was in a better position to identify and directly assist indigent households.

Citing data from the World Food Program, Abad said only about 11 percent of NFA rice went to the poorest 20 percent of households, and that it cost the agency as much as P8,482 to deliver an equivalent of 50 of rice piled this.

Don't spread the 'love'

THIS POPULAR TV game show host isn't going to take it sitting down if this big corporate sponsor decides to place ethics another game show—even if it's not necessarily jumping ship but only spreading the love, so to speak.

The talk around town is that this corporate sponsor, a big player in its league, recently found itself in between the devil and the deep blue sea after promising to support another program hosted and produced by a buxom athlete. When Game show Host A found out, he (constructive "exclusivity" [the other show directly competes with Host A during weekends]).

Moneygame doesn't usually exist in multimedia marketing or corporate sponsorship initially want to optimize mileage from various media outlets and platforms but to manage. Game show Host A, the corporate sponsor is and is the endorsing other options—including the use of different corporate vehicles—to keep the attention to Game show Host B.

Incidentally, both game show hosts threw their weight behind the principal of the corporate sponsor last year. Tough. Darin C. Bayolan

Batting for the big league

CONSTRUCTION and engineering firm Megawide Construction Corp.—apart from realizing the family of tycoon Henry Sy as a strategic investor during its stock market debut earlier this year—is bringing in a Japanese partner in Orix unit plans to venture into infrastructure building.

Industry sources said the company would now like to seek an active role as a proponent of some public-private partnership (PPP) projects and not just rely on remaining bidders to contest big-ticket deals to construction after it will.

Industry sources said Megawide scales had "firmed" talks with its prospective Japanese partner and was now finalizing the tie up. With the technical and financial muscle from the Japanese partner, Megawide is positioning for large-scale PPP projects.

The first on Megawide's plate is the ₱1.96-billion Daang Hari-South Luzon Expressway project of toll operators and developer Lodestar Investment Holdings Corp. Megawide, which is in Cavite, Liz Filipe and Montalvo, is a major contractor of the Megawide group firms on building the road project—the first in the PPP pipeline which everyone hopes to see moving home to construction before a often jokingly referred to as "Run Powerpoint Presentation" ever today. Darin C. Bayolan

Newsworthy

THE NBC for news advise is urging to new bottlefolds in Solar Entertainment and ABC-5 beef up their news divisions.

There is the know will the State that Solar TV has tapped the talents of former ABS-CBN veteran Jing Magsaysay and Pol Medina Jr. to lead the growth of Solar TV news. A new studio is also reportedly being built in Mandaluyong City to support its diversification into news operations from sports and entertainment.

ABC 5 led by businessman Manuel V. Pangilinan, meanwhile, wants to battle it out with ABS-CBN and GMA 7 in the highly profitable television news and information operations, and is gearing to roll from ABS-CBN to take charge.

As to whether there is room for more news channels, however, remains to be seen. But it is now that billions to bring in the viewers will mean millions of pesos in investments down the chain. Tina Arceo-Dumlao

All that glitters is...

THE LUCRATIVE PSE main index realignment will undoubtedly strike out a mixed number from the list, Japanese Consolidated Mining, effective Sept. 12, which means underlisted bank may dump the stock.

Mining enthusiasts, however, take comfort in still bullish global gold prices and the likely extension by Gold Fields Ltd. of its option to acquire a 60-percent interest in the undeveloped gold-copper Boi Southeast deposit in Northern Luzon. Similar year after the South African mining giant inked the option deal with mining magnate Philip Tan for $240 million, mining pundits are optimistic that Gold Fields will proceed with the project.

Sharing the financial spending of Gold Fields in Johannesburg earlier this month, company CEO Nick Holland said he's for FIE

Power Situation Outlook
for Wednesday, 31 August 2011

	Low	Peak	Reserve
Available Capacity (MW)	8,132	1,783	1,410
System Peak Demand (MW)	6,041	1,045	1,181
Actual Reserve (MW)	1,383	443	219

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Do superheroes worry about money?

MONEY MATTERS

Eileen D. Cruz

QUESTION: Will there ever come a time when money will not be an issue in one's life? —Hardworking parent

Answer: Since parents are nothing less than superheroes to their kids, why don't we answer this question from the point of view of iconic superheroes?

Both Iron Man and Batman were rich beyond the wildest dreams of ordinary citizens. They were built born rich and remained single. And they stayed rich because their immense wealth only earned more money. Making money for them was just secondary to fighting crime.

In contrast, Superman and Spiderman started out as meager living. Both Superman and Spiderman had to support themselves through the salary of newsmen still on the run. Additionally, Spiderman had to take care of Aunt May. The only difference is that a major being like Superman would probably not need to eat and that the job he chose to go for (show, a radium bite that electrify. As an aside, how in the world can people around Superman not recognize him with just the additional eye glasses and a regular business suit as a wire? At least Spiderman, Iron Man and Batman wore masks.

Peter Parker aka Spiderman is one of the two poorest of the four superheroes in our list. He was orphaned just like the other three. Spidey was neither born rich nor powerful. A simple accident where-in he was bitten by a radium bite spider gave him super powers. He could afford only a bike to get him to and from work when he was not swinging between buildings. He actually made his own superhero costume by hand and made a living being a news photographer and occasional photo delivery boy. So did he worry about money? You bet.

With the exception of Spider-man, it seems that superheroes that are rich or connected do not enroll or worry about money on do they?

There is probably no treasure in the world that is not scarce, and money is no exception. Tony Stark aka Iron Man was a brilliant man and the son of a wealthy industrialist. After his parents were killed in a car accident, he inherited his father's company. Bruce Wayne aka Batman was a superficial playboy who lived off his family's fortune. His wealth came from the real estate properties and Wayne Enterprises that he both inherited. Being born rich gave our two superheroes the financial edge in life. Their massive wealth had so much momentum that they would both afford to allocate funds for building weapons and machinery to fight crime and make the world a safer place to live in. However, wealth can be squandered while businesses come and go. What is not shown in the stories of our superheroes is how they also ensured that they were running their businesses smoothly; otherwise they would run out of financial ammunition to be the crime fighters that they were. While getting as much as millions of dollars, these superheroes still worried about money.

Let's now shift the focus to our **other newsmaker superhero. "Beats** than a speeding bullet," stronger than a speeding bullet, strategically placed in between and able to leap tall buildings in a single bound," Clark Kent aka Superman was unlike Iron Man and Batman. Superman was born with superpowers but was not rich. Seeking to blend in like an ordinary mortal, he took on the job of a news reporter at the Daily Planet. Did he need to worry about money? Probably not. But he still needed to work to hide his true identity. Without this cover, villains would have found a way to expose him to his only weakness, Kryptonite. In a sense, his secretary was his job and he had to work as hard as anybody to keep it.

So you see superhero powers, even our fictional superheroes still worried about money whether it was for keeping a billion dollar empire humming, nicely running that employment is there to make a title identity and power for the average mod of putting food on the table. But just like you, superheroes focused on the thing close to their hearts. For them, it was fighting crime. For you, it's funding for your family so that you all live in a safe and happy environment.

We probably will be worrying about money up to the day we die. But there is a way to stop worrying about money. Rather than make money the thing that preoccupies your mind, focus on your goals in life and try to achieve them the best way you can. Everything else will follow.

One added thing that all our superheroes did was to give their riches up for others. This, in fact, is the best way to grow your savings and wealth, to give first. By giving away more and not necessarily all of your money first, cheerfully, faithfully, wisely and quickly, you are liberating yourself from money's clutches. And by doing so, blessings in a "good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap (Luke 6:38)." There is a fund manager for a very long time and all investments that I've seen are not without risk. Giving away some money here in the only investment in the world with a return that is fully guaranteed.

So give some money away first so that you stop worrying about it.

Thanks to DC and Marvel comics for these superhero discussions.

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Gov't paid ₱451.9B in debts in Jan-July

By Bernie V.R. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT spent P451.9 billion in the seven months to July to pay for its debts, lower by 0.3 percent than the P453.5 billion paid a year ago, according to the Bureau of the Treasury.

The slight decrease was observed as the country paid less interest payments, helped by favorable results of debt management efforts and the strengthening of the peso.

From January to July the government spent P207.2 billion in principal—P189.6 billion in domestic debt and P86.6 billion in foreign loans.

The amount was about 4 percent higher than the P206 billion paid a year ago.

Also, the government paid P175.7 billion in interest—P161.9 billion on domestic debts and P73.8 billion on foreign borrowings.

Total interest payment for in these seven months was 7 percent lower than the P189.5 billion recorded in the same period last year.

Last week, Budget Secretary Florencio B. Abad said the country's better debt servicing situation was also partly due to the low crude oiling upgrades accorded by international debt watchers to the Philippines in the past 12 months.

Most recently in June, Fitch Ratings brought the country's long-term foreign currency debt rating to a notch below investment grade due to "progress on fiscal consolidation against a track record of macro stability broadly favorable economic prospects and strengthening external finances."

Abad said these favorable actions mean **that credit ratings agencies have acknowledged the Aquino administration's commitment to honest and effective governance, particularly in making sure that public funds are used efficiently and effectively.**

"With these upgrades, we can have better access to more affordable financing at better terms," he said. "This would allow us to further reduce the burden of interest payments on national coffers and free up funds for productive projects."

Latest data from the Bureau of the Treasury show that outstanding debts rose to ₱5.777 trillion as of May, increasing by almost P65 billion from the April level mainly due to new loans contracted.

Biz Buzz

project now has eight underground diamond drill rigs turning, with preliminary results confirming the company's deposit estimates.

"Our aim is to deliver a bulk resource model, by March 2012. Concurrently, we are making good progress on a range of technical, social and environmental studies required to advance this project," Solitaire CEO Richard Rose said.

If Lepanto could sustain the same trading sum over the last three months, the company could register a rise in the PSE in the near-term. A reversal, a potential dampener, of course, would be if gold prices would reverse dramatically in its wakes, however, Gold Fields had projected a multi-more conservative price level for gold than current market prices. —Doris C. Bautista

Back in the saddle

SAN MIGUEL Corp. is scheduled to be restituted into the main share index of the Philippine Stock Exchange next month after a 13-month absence—the only time in the bourse's history when the conglomerate was not part of the benchmark.

Theoretically, the company had complied with the bourse's 12-percent free float requirement as early as four months ago when it sold additional shares to the public, but had to wait for the completion of the PSE's regular index adjustment schedule. Of course, the companies of the San Miguel group are the most valuable in the country in terms of market capitalization, with total value of P1.13 trillion as of last week.

This was followed by the PLDT group with a combined market capitalization of P966.5 billion (including Metabox's P298.8 billion); the SM group with P888.4 billion; the Ayala group with P766.9 billion, and the Lopez(ex) group with P439.3 billion. —Bernie L. Lucas

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PAL lines up measures to give bottom line a boost

Airline set to reconfigure long-haul planes, invest in new systems

By Paolo G. Montecillo

FLAG CARRIER Philippine Airlines (PAL) has lined more revenue-enhancing and cost-cutting initiatives that are expected to improve the company's profitability in the mid-to-long term.

As the airline prepares to cut about 2,000 jobs in a bid to discontinuously cut costs, the Lucio Tan-led carrier said its measures to be implemented in the next 12 months aim to improve the quality of service as the airline competes with smaller but better-operating budget carriers.

The goals of PAL, as its press portfolio said, is to become and be **the key player in the Asian airline industry** by providing a combination **of superior customer service**, convenient schedules and competitive fares while controlling costs," the airline said in a disclosure.

"PAL will continue rationalizing unjustly allocation through matching demand with capacity by deploying aircraft accordingly," PAL added.

PAL also said it would refurbish its fleet of four Airbus A340 long-range planes.

Together with the company's five Boeing 747 jumbo jets, PAL's A340s are used for flights to the United States, which is one of the most profitable parts of the company's operations.

PAL's 747 aircraft were refurbished two years ago to improve their interiors. The planes were reconfigured to remove the First Class section, leaving only the Business and Economy sections.

"The reconfiguration and refurbishment program on the A340 aircraft will eliminate product inconsistencies and operational inefficiencies, and enhance the comfort and travel experience of PAL's passengers," the airline said in a statement.

Another measure to be implemented is the installation of a reservations, fare computation, ticketing and departure control system from Sabre-based software firm Sabre Airline Solutions, a leading airline solutions provider, serving over 380 different carriers.

"This new initiative is expected to drive revenues, enhance and skyhopper, owned by Cebu-based businessman Manny Gonzalez, and SPI Global Holdings, a business process outsourcing firm controlled by Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

PAL expects to save $30 million to $35 million a year from the outsourcing plan.

Meralco cuts capex to ₱8B, down 22%

By Alny R. Baviera

MANILA ELECTRIC Co., the country's biggest power distributor, was forced to cut its capital expenditure budget this year by almost 22 percent to only ₱8.3 billion, due to a regulatory restriction to limit the increase in its distribution, supply metering charges over the next four years.

Meralco chief operating officer Oscar S. Reyes said, however, that the decision to cut its capex budget (the year from the original ₱10.6 billion would not affect the company's distribution service level for 2011.

"Our projects will be geared to service the increasing customer base and to enhance reliability and robustness of the electric distribution system and to sustain system loss," Reyes said, noting that Meralco will prioritize capital projects that are meant specifically for distribution service.

As of mid-June 2011, Meralco has already spent ₱3.9 billion for substations, transformers and other electrical projects that will improve the distribution utility's system.

For the rest of the year, the company has a little over ₱4.5 billion to spend for other electrical projects that will enhance the reliability of its service in close to 5 million customers within its franchise area, Reyes said.

Earlier this year, the Energy Regulatory Commission issued a decision that lowered the distribution, supply and metering charges that Meralco would be allowed to collect over the next four years, from the current level of ₱1.4161 per kilowatt-hour (kWh).

For the regulatory year beginning July 2011 and ending 2012, Meralco will have to lower these charges to ₱1.3826 per kWh and reduce them even further to ₱1.3467 per kWh by 2015.

LBP income up 24% to ₱6.2B as of end-July

By Michelle V. Ratira

LAND BANK of the Philippines generated a net income of ₱6.2 billion as of July, growing by 24 percent from ₱5 billion in the same period last year.

LBP is thus confident that it would be able to exceed its net income target of ₱8.1 billion for the whole of 2011.

"Definitely, we [the bank] will exceed that," said Landbank president Gilda Pico.

Pico said Landbank's income growth in the first seven months was driven mainly by its **lending activities, particularly** to the agricultural sector and enterprises in the rural areas.

Pico said loans extended to small farmers and fishers in the seven months in July reached ₱14.6 billion, up by 38 percent from only ₱12.3 billion in the same period last year.

She said the bank was also optimistic income from its other businesses, such as retail banking services.

The bank recently forged a partnership with Subaru-part affiliate Metro Subaru to expand the coverage of its remittance service.

Under the partnership, Filipinos based in Italy may send their remittances to the Philippines through any of the 14,000 branches of Banca Intesa.

Once a remittance is sent, the money may be withdrawn by recipients here through Landbank, which has 980 automated teller machines all over the country.

The partnership is aimed at servicing 70 percent working in Milan, Rome and other key cities in Italy, where many Filipinos live and work.

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"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." – John 3:16

Medusa Mining earmarks $70M for expansion

By Rica T. Chichioco

MEDUSA MINING Ltd., which posted record gold sales and net income for its fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2011, said it was ready to fund the expansion at its Co-O mine via bar upon debt buy.

"Our current financial position allows the company to self-fund the Co-O mill expansion and mine development, estimated at $70-mil-lion, and we are starting to accumulate the cash required to self-fund the Bonanglolig Project, as it matures from the work currently being done," managing director Peter Hayburn-Brown said in a statement.

Medusa's record sales and profit in its last fiscal year was attributed to higher gold production and prices.

The intermediate miner said its net profit after tax totaled $110.9 million, 68 percent higher than the $65.6 million generated in the same period last year.

The company produced a record 168,674 ounces of gold for the year, an increase of 11,796 ounces or 15 percent from the previous year's production of 156,879 ounces.

This generated revenue of $149.6 million in revenue for the back of "escalating gold prices," Brown said. The revenue posted for the financial year ending June 30, 2011 was 56 percent higher than the previous financial year.

Medusa is an un-hedged gold producer. It got an average gold price of $1,371 per ounce from the sale of 96,037 ounces of gold in 2010. Medusa received an average of $1,228 per ounce from 64,000 ounces of gold.

Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization was $126.7 million, up 66 percent from $72.7 million a year ago.

The company said it remained debt free and had total cash and cash equivalents in gold on hand account of $161.1 million as of June 30, 2011. In the financial year ending June 30, 2010, Medusa had $95.6 million in cash and cash equivalent in gold.

Looking ahead, Brown said the expansion at Co-O would be a "major transformational" for the Australian mining company.

The planned development and mill expansion will provide new incentive treatment facilities to cater for the long life-operations expected from the Co-O Mine and potentially other satellite mines, Brown said.

BSP seen further raising rates in '11

BofA expects total increase of 50 basis points

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas is not yet done with its cycle of interest rate tightening alongside the regional trend of "resilient" growth and "persistent" inflation, according to investment bank Bank of America Merrill Lynch.

In a commentary titled Waiting Rate Hike cycle: Not Dead Yet" dated Aug. 26, the investment banking unit of Bank of America projected that the BSP would raise its key overnight borrowing rate twice more for a total of 50 basis points this year from the current 4.5 percent.

"Our previous work has shown that the Philippines is surprisingly resilient to slowdowns in its trading partners, influence relatively high, we expect it to peak close to 5 percent year-on-year in September or October. Thus, we still see interest rates is relatively bankish in the regional context," BofA Merrill Lynch said.

There are only three remaining monetary policy meetings scheduled by the influence targeting Philippine central bank—Sept. 8, Oct. 20 and Dec. 1. Earlier, Merrill Lynch was projecting only one more interest rate hike by the BSP for the rest of 2011.

The latest research noted that a sharper slowdown in domestic or global growth would affect its projection of further monetary tightening.

It noted that in recent months, inconsistent indicate that the economy was slowing, the BSP opted for a not-severe form of tightening and raised the incremental bank reserve requirement by one percentage point in June and another percentage point in July.

"Should the BSP see domestic inflation or economic growth slowing, they may opt for this less potent form of tightening, rather than an outright hike in policy rates," BofA Merrill Lynch said.

"They may also hold back on policy outlays if the US goes into recession, as the Philippine economy may be affected in the form of slower exports and remittances from overseas workers," it said.

The investment bank noted that financial markets have rebounded on the US downside risk in recent weeks. It now sees a 40 percent chance that the US economy would dip back into recession, higher than the 35 percent probability assigned earlier this month. It also sees the US Federal Reserve undertaking a third phase of quantitative easing or rekeeping liquidity through bond buybacks.

"Even in a mild slowdown, the US, BofA Merrill Lynch had downgraded its economic growth outlook for many Asian countries, noting that the region was resilient but not immune to US woes. In the case of the Philippines, its economic growth outlook for this year was cut to 4.7 percent from 5.0 percent. For next year, the group downgraded growth outlook was also downgraded to 5.5 percent from 5.0 percent.

Across the region, BofA Merrill Lynch has slashed its interest rate forecasts and expects most central banks in Asia to remain on pause until 2012.

"However, we do not think the fighting cycle is done. In our view, growth will prove resilient, inflation will prove persistent, and policy interest rates will stand below neutral levels. A US recession would necessitate further cuts in our interest rate forecasts. But, even then, we think local policy, rather than monetary policy, would be the primary macro-hedge against a downturn," it said.

Pirated goods haul hit P3.7B in 8 mos

By Abigail L. Ho

THE NATIONAL Committee on Intellectual Property Rights (NCIPR) confiscated more than P3.7 billion worth of counterfeit and pirated goods in the first eight months of the year. It's 66.5 percent higher than the P2.4 billion haul in the same period last year.

According to data from the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines, a member agency of the NCIPR, the National Bureau of Investigation accounted for the bulk at about P2.1 billion, comprising 55 percent of the total goods confiscated in January to August.

The NBI confiscated more than one million pieces of fake goods, mostly high-value watches, via 143 search warrants issued as of Aug. 24.

In the same period a year ago, the NBI was able to bring in about P645 million worth of contraband.

The Bureau of Customs raided its another P1.3 billion in counterfeit goods in the first eight months, up by 27.9 percent from P981 million a year ago.

From 971 inspections nationwide, the Optical Media Board seized more than two million pieces and 2,540 cartons of pirated discs worth P516.7 million as of end-July. (BOM had yet to submit its August data to the NCIPR).

The Philippine National Police added another P11.9 million to the NCIPR's total haul in the first eight months, as a result of 328 search warrants issued from January to July. Available PNP data was only up to end-July.

In an earlier interview, IPOPHL director general Atty. Ricardo Blancaflor said the NCIPR expected the value of total confiscation to reach P8 billion this year.

"We're confident that we can reach that number. With the passage of a new law that will give us enforcement powers, we expect to be able to boost our confiscation and prosecution efforts," he said.

PNR to open 'Bicol Express' in mid-September

By Paolo G. Montecillo

THE GOVERNMENT is on track on resuming its target of opening the train line to Naga City from Metro Manila, dubbed as "Bicol Express," this September with repairs resuming soon, pledged.

Philippine National Railways (PNR) management said key sections of the track that were damaged by lead-setting earlier this year were almost ready to be used, paving the way for the start of incommercial operations by the middle of September.

"Our target is to have the trains running in time for the Peñafrancia festival in Naga City" PNR spokesman Jun Lores said.

"The festival is a big event for the Bicol region and that will be our launch party," he said. The Peñafrancia festival is set for Sept. 11 to 21 of this year. The Our Lady of Peñafrancia Basilica is located in Naga City.

The PNR management has been working on restoring the "Bicol Express" train service since the start of the Aquino administration. The train service was halted in 2006 due to damage on the tracks caused by typhoons.

The service was briefly restored in June for a week opening, but the tracks were damaged once again due to bad weather.

Sison said the PNR management wants one train leaving Manila for Bicol every day, but currently only two leaving Bicol for Manila around noon, early. "PNR General Manager Junio Ragragio is down in Bicol supervising all the repairs every day," Sison said.

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Today's fast-paced, living demands mobility for those always on the go. But travelling to and from work, going home, hanging out with friends, or shopping can be quite stressful nowadays, especially when distance and traffic get in the way.

Good thing there's Paseo de Roces, the latest, high-rise residential project from Federal Land Inc., real estate arm of Metrobank Group. So now, getting to the office on time, having home early, socializing, or even setting up your own shop can become much more convenient.

Actual model unit

Situated along Don Chino Roces Avenue in Makati City, Paseo de Roces is a 34-storey, 2-tower project that's been designed to let you live the life you've always wanted. Each unit can actually be a dream home, an office or even both, depending on how you want it.

The new development is actually envisioned to offer an ideal abode for professionals or couples seeking to build a family environment close to the comforts of Makati. There are studio units (25.5 sqm and 28 sqm), one bedroom units (37 sqm and 43.5 sqm) or two-bedroom units (62 square meters) wide enough to fit the entire family. Whatever units they choose, only one thing is certain: future residents will soon be able to downsize and out of Makati or their own cities without worrying too much about the living and lifestyle trade-offs.

But what sets apart Paseo De Roces even more is the "My HOBS" concept, which stands for Home, Office, Business and Shop. This feature is an enhanced version of the "SOHO" concept which lets you combine a home, office, business, and shopping space all under one roof. A studio can easily fit a small health clinic or a spa inn. What's more, its prestigious Makati address also gives it that added push for any startup business to thrive.

Complementing the "My HOBS" experience at the Paseo de Roces is the town's major commercial area centered to shops and restaurants and where shopping is made much more convenient. It's as if a shopper's paradise had just been built outside of your door!

Once completed, all units will also feature elegantly finished kitchens and bathrooms for their utmost functionality. Fresh mass amenities will also be provided to ensure a healthy and relaxing lifestyle for residents and tenants of all ages. There will also be adult and kiddie swimming pools, a multi-purpose function room, fitness center, outdoor fitness stations, sky-park, reflecting pond, children's play area and kids' center, as well as a meditation garden, conference room, refreshing walk, business center, an open gazebo/cabana, a game room, an 4-hut room, jogging path and landscaped garden areas.

Paseo de Roces is also accessible to a wide array of commercial establishments and major places of interest in Makati such as Greenbelt, Glorietta, Landmark, Waltermart, Makati Cinema Square, Don Bosco Technical Institute, Makati Medical Center and St. John Bosco Parish. Its close proximity to major thoroughfares such as Ayala Avenue, EDSA-Ayala Avenue, Paseo Road and South Super Highway also gives it superb leasing potentials, thereby making Paseo de Roces a truly great investment.

It could also be just the right halfway house," especially for those working in Makati but live in Metro Manila's suburbs.

The building will have 24-hour security, automatic fire suppression system, fire detection and alarm system, stand-by power generator that cover common areas and residential units, a mail room and parking space.

Construction of Paseo de Roces will be completed by 2016. With Federal Land as its developer, investors can have a peace of mind knowing that their units will be delivered.

"With over 35 years of experience in property development, we at Federal Land are committed to building homes that help elevate the Filipino family's living experience. We believe a home is more than just a roof over your head. Our latest development in Makati is a testament to how we continue to reach out to the ever-changing needs of our market," says Alfred Ty, president of Federal Land Inc.

In turn, Federal Land had started the trend in high-rise residential constructions along the former Passing Tams line, starting with its Oriental Garden Makati and The Oriental Place. "Other developers eventually followed suit," claims Ty. In Makati, Paseo de Roces will be the ninth residential condominium project of Federal Land.

Federal Land makes city living easy and at its best. Paseo de Roces is surely a place where the life you've always wanted starts. For more information about Paseo De Roces, you can call 830-0000 or 878-1622 or visit www.federalland.com.ph.

Federal Land
City living made easy by

MOTORING

Editor Joey R. Arcaina

Another automotive FAQ: 'Casa' or 'talyer'?

TWO WEEKS ago, I gave my opinion on where the better buy, used or brand new? The response I got from various motorist was quite surprising, which prompted me to write this second piece which is intended to help your car serviced within the official dealership network or what we all refer to as casa, or to find a good independent specialist repair shop or talyer.

I tell people that if your car is brand-new or still within its warranty period, it's best to continue having it serviced in the casa. You paid for your warranty when you bought the car and it would be a waste to abandon it, especially as they have been a rash of recalls and other worthwhile campaigns in recent times. If your view on casa is also that of a simple commercialistic shop gets you those points A to H with as much efficiency and a minimum of hassle, chances are you have done the minimum required to keep the car running properly, and have not spent on any modifications on your vehicle. You should stop with a casa to have your car serviced. Leave it there, come back for it when it's done. End of story.

The downside is of course cost. Now car is old coz the casa will dump you the same labor rates and will be selling you brand new old-stock parts for your car IF they have it in stock. If it still be spared ordered, it might cost more.

But cost alone should not be the only factor for you to bring your car outside of the casa and into the talyer. A talyer usually lacks the special tools, intensive training and professional process flow that a casa works with. Talyers also generally lack the thoroughness and cleanliness that a casa works in. And unless you give specific instruction, a talyer will only focus on what they see to be obvious problem, rather than thoroughly checking your car inside and out. This can be dangerous for you, and in a sense, this overconfidence and looking for other potential problems which then can be rectified is what makes a lot of cases look greedy, rife with cons. Cost versus safety is always a difficult judgment call.

If however you're the enthusiast and you spend a good amount of your time to look after your car and have modifications, an official dealership might not be the best place to bring your car. While a certified auto mechanic is trained to work on your car, they might not be trained to work with after-market components you have installed. I remember having brought an old car of mine to the dealership to have the oil changed and the wheels aligned. The oil change was done, but they failed to do the wheel-alignment, saying we can did not have adjustable cams, but and my after-market suspension was damaged because of a slight knocking noise. The funny thing is my old car rode on coil-over suspension and had pillow-ball suspension, which allowed for individual wheel camber adjustment. It was an all-around upheaval breaking manual which unfortunately caused a lot of audible noise at low speeds and large dips and bumps that many low-frequency NVH, the kind we hear and feel. This was the knocking noise the dealership had reported to me. I brought it to my local speed shop immediately after and they told me that all was fine. After words, I got stuck to bringing it to a talyer which was familiar with my aftermarket components.

There are cost savings to be made of course, but these savings can be a pipe dream should you screw-up the parts you are having, or have those parts installed by a shop not competent or experienced to work on your car. So before taking the plunge, look around and ask which competent and trustworthy talyer specializes in your car. Developing a good working relationship based on trust and accountability is paramount when going outside of the official dealership network. A good talyer can deliver a more personalized work that is just as thorough and professional as the casa, but you need to have the right frame of mind and spend the time to oversee the work done on your car, like any hobby. If cost savings alone is your criteria, you might be in for a very rude, painful and expensive surprise.

As comments, email me at char.arcaina@philippine.com

SAFETY EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR TOYOTA
TOYOTA Motor Philippines Corporation (TMP) president Mr. Isao Segata (second from left) receives the Safety Milestone Recognition (SMR) Award from Labor Sec. Ms. Brenda Villaflores (left), director IV of the Bureau of Working Conditions—of the Department of Labor and Employment (DWC-DOLE) during the recent 23rd anniversary celebration of TMP as other top company officials look on.

Story and more photos on page B2-2

Isang tulog lang, may kotse ka na. May Prime Rebate ka pa.

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A 'Welt' of knowledge in Bavaria

Text and photos by Raoul R. Bahoy

(Or, Would Part II)

MUNICH, GERMANY—The BMW Welt (English: BMW World) in Munich is an expansive 19,000 sq m. There are only around 35 vehicles there: 25 at the Welt and 10 at the Museum but only because there is so much more in that place than just vehicles.

For starters, BMW World's architecture by itself deserves special attention. Professor Wolf D. Prix refers to its design as "the architecture of movement in a brand-state." This designed the unusual shape with the "cylinder" in mind—and the rest of BMW Welt representing clouds.

This building embodies speed, elegance and dynamism —values that equally pertain to BMW vehicles themselves. The BMW Welt signifies on the outside what it's all about on the inside: dynamics and mobility.

"In just four dimensions of the BMW Welt into perspective, the roof of the BMW Welt is so big that it would have no problem covering Al Madi's Square in Qatar. It takes just 11 minutes and the double roof [to wrap the roof up]," said Heinz Hiebl, Lutzelsiedl,Leopold Rosenbauer mobile Endoscopy Munchen, during an interview with Inquirer Motoring.

The BMW Welt does appear far lighter than it actually is. The roof itself weighs around 4,000 tons, or as much as 18 fully loaded jumbo jets. In addition to the 13 pillars, however, there are other, less obvious points of support for the roof —such as the chimney to the restaurant area and the VIP entrance to the customer lounge.

The BMW Welt is nine stories tall, including the four underground levels. There are 1,114 rooms in the building, many of which are hidden from plain view.

The floor of the auditorium is divided into segments and can be individually raised or lowered, allowing the central innovation—a "topography"—of the room to be altered. The down sections that make up the stage are three meters wide and might be individually used to create a smaller or larger platform. Each row of seats is 1.10 meters high and height adjustable. This space can also be transformed into a variety of different rooms, as dictated (depending on the configurations of the individual floor segments, for example, it can serve as a level conference or banqueting hall, a venue for live performances, an exhibition hall, room or a cinema with raked seating.

Super curtain

Instead of the conventional safety curtain, of the classical theatre which separates the audience from the stage, 1000 1/8-scribed an immense 33 m² "super curtain" and five 14-ton counterbalances in rear of the. The curtain can be completely closed to prevent the fire from spreading. When open, the wall disappears into the ground to create a seamless transition between the auditorium and the foyer. By virtue of the wall being situated at the far end of the hall, the entire auditorium has been approved for use as a stage.

An significant as the early history of the BMW brand as a maker of aircraft engines is the storied vehicle was also a maker of motorcycles. Even before the first automobile was assembled in Munich, BMW had its R32 motorcycle built in 1923, and developed by Max Friz. "We have been devoted for almost 90 years now...and with us, succeeding success, as reflected not least in our numerous motorcycle racing triumphs to a passion," said Wolf.

A 1923 R32 is on display at the Welt. In comparison, the BMW R1100 GS2 is the latest version of the R2332, and it has the i-drive with adaptive light, ESB std, and phone std, to name a few.

Longest cantilever bridge

The pedestrian bridge that connects BMW Welt to the production plant is the longest cantilever bridge in the Bavarian area. Together with the bridge over the street, the gallery is Bavaria's longest cantilevered pedestrian bridge at 200 meters and 7.5 meters high.

The production plant, at 200 meters long and 700 meters at its highest point, is like one massive machinery that resembles the body of the BMW car. There, around 9,000 BMW associates from more than 90 countries turn out some 900 BMW 3-Series cars and 3,400 premium engines on a daily basis.

Prix compares BMW Welt to an ancient Greek temple, most notably the Parthenon on the Acropolis in Athens. But the new world icon is around seven times bigger but needs just a quarter of the number of columns to support its roof.

The staging area for customers is in the Welt building. There, customers from all over the world can pick up their new BMW cars for a 515-euro collection fee.

Eight Ball

Toyota fetes outstanding leaders and team members

TOYOTA MOTOR Philippines Corporation (TMC) recently paid tribute to "Team Members" whose achievements further established the company.

During TMP's 23rd anniversary celebration at its head office in Santa Rosa City, Laguna, TMP recognized the winners of its 2010 Most Outstanding Leaders and Team Members (MOLT) awards. Eight Team Members in different categories were recognized for their exceptional performance in the areas of productivity, quality, safety, cost efficiency, continuous improvement at work and for being exemplary models of good morals and character.

This year's winners are Gil Barbasabel Pacific-of Manager category (who has been recently assigned as Toyota's regional office at Toyota Motor Asia Pacific in Thailand), Cornelio Complete for Supervisor category, Diane Joan Bulseco for Group Head category, Marian Ingson for Team Leader category, Erwin Alvarez for Team Leader category, Irish Magbuti for Office-assigned Team Member category, Jury Alberto for Indirect Production Team Member category, and Jane Lambiento for Direct Production Team Member category.

The biennial MOST Awards encourages Team Members to always strive to be better and follow a path of distinction.

Also recognized were Team Members Edgar Capestrian who won the gold in the Group Leader Inserting category, and Ismael Abenaroza who brought home a bronze in the Quality Control-Vehicle. Team Member category during the recently concluded Toyota Asia Pacific (ASPAC) Skill Contest in Thailand, proving once more that the Filipino's competitive nerdy world class.

TMP president Michitoshi Fujita commended them saying, "These extraordinary achievements are a source of honor and pride for TMP and are a reflection of the skills and capability of our Team Members."

This year, there were 151 participating team members from 12 Toyota manufacturing affiliates in the Asia Pacific region. Participants showcased their skills in different production line functions that included welding, painting, assembly, press shop, logistics, maintenance, and quality control. Last year, TMP team member Vicki Lauresta also topped the ASPAC Skill contest, winning the gold medal in Painting.

TMP also received the Safety Milestone Recognition (Silver) award from Ignacio Ma. Rhonda Villafuerte, director IV of the Bureau of Working Conditions of the Department of Labor and Employment (BWC-DOLE), for having achieved more than two million safe man-hours. The Toyota Motor category and for having complied with all reporting requirements for labor standards. TMP is the first manufacturing company in the automotive industry to receive the Silver award. The recognition affirms that Toyota's safety programs and activities are producing positive results. With the award, Toyota further challenged the Toyota team to "maintain our efforts to further strengthen our safety culture and achieve our ultimate goal: a consistently zero accident workplace." In 2010, 19 Toyota dealers also received the Silver award from BWC-DOLE.

Aside from the safety award, TMP also acquired other distinctions which include being among the best manufacturing plants overseas of Toyota Motor Corporation (TMC) in terms of quality for the second year in a row. TMP's Iloilo plant received the Gunbuy Quality Company Award during the Team Toyota Asia Pacific Meeting held in Singapore earlier this year for outstanding performance in quality vehicle production. Moreover, the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP) conferred the "Outstanding Achievement in Productivity and Quality" award to TMP during the 2011 Kapatiran sa Industriya or BAP-AFED Awards.

All these achievements are considered fruits of Toyota's investment in its people, the company's most important asset. "This high performance culture is what drives our Team Members to become the best they could possible be. For our part, we shall continue to provide opportunities to help Team Members reach their full potential and total well-being," said Fujita.

AWARDEES ALL smiled are Diane Joan Bulseco (left) and Irish Magbuti, standing, from left, are Marites Espeon, Alvin Alvarez, Gil Montreal Emillio, Jury Alberto, Jane Lambiento and Cornelio Complento.

Isuzu, WWF tie up for Ilagan watershed

By Charles E. Bahoy

WITH AN estimated one billion cubic tonnes revealing the world's roadways, one could just imagine the billions of tons of greenhouse gases pumped into the atmosphere every day.

But while significant, the figure still pales in comparison to the amount released through deforestation—over 1.6 billion tons or about 25 to 30 percent of the total amount of greenhouse gases released to the atmosphere each year.

Transportation accounts for less than a tenth of the total amount.

"Greenhouse" gases refer mainly to carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and water vapor that are found in the atmosphere. The rapid accumulation of these gases in recent decades is believed to have increased the amount of the sun's heat that is being absorbed and trapped within the earth's atmosphere, producing global warming.

"The accelerating deterioration of our forests from rampant slashing and burning is now being recognized as one of the main causes of climate change. Carbon emissions from deforestation far exceed damage caused by automobiles and factories," announced Lory Tan, vice chair and CEO of World Wide Fund for Nature-Philippines (WWF-Philippines).

Partnership

Tan, together with Isuzu Philippines Corp. recently sealed a partnership deal that would help conserve and manage the 40,000 watershed located in Ilagan, Isabela. The watershed is a primary source of fresh drinking water for residents of the Cagayan Valley area, considered Luzon's largest rice granary.

IPC will provide funds for the procurement of native forest trees (like narra) as well as over 2,267 mango trees and 2,186 Japanese Ikeremon (ON) trees. These trees will be planted along the southern side of the Sierra Madre mountain range that ensures the capital town of Ilagan, Isabela.

While the forest trees that will be planted will help stabilize the mountain soil, the fruit trees on the other hand will provide livelihood for the farmers.

"We at Isuzu have always subscribe to the principle that every individual and every company should strive to make the world a better place to live in. While we believe that planting trees is already a noble endeavor, we also decided that we should also help support the community that will serve as custodians of the forest. Considering that Isuzu proudly calls itself 'Your Responsible Partner', the public could rest assure that we will uphold that title for as long as we operate here," informed IPC president Ryoji Yamasaki, whose company celebrates its 14th year of operation in the Philippines this year.

Yamasaki informed that every anniversary, the company chooses a worthwhile environment-oriented community project as a way of giving back to the community and the environment.

Findways

"As we continue to find ways to improve our vehicles, make them fuel's less in drive and efficient to drive, we will continue to find other means to improve the world we are living in," said Yamasaki.

The IPC chairman started in 2002, when the company organized an environmental activity for the children of Bulsan, Laguna.

He added that the WWF is an excellent partner as it is the largest conservation organization in the world.

"WWF has attracted us more is the fact that the WWF spearheads practical solutions to help a country like the Philippines, adapt to climate change, secure food sources to alleviate poverty, conserve local ecosystems to reap natural benefits, empower communities to live free impact lives, help corporations develop equitable, low-impact supply chains and promote renewable sources of clean energy," Yamasaki explained.

Farmers' request

The Isuzu crew enlisted for the agroforestry project was based on the requests of the farmers who explained that they are best suited to enhanced soybeans that frequent the area.

Agroforestry is a key component in reforestation. This provides livelihood to local tree and corn farmers, allowing them to have a stake in the project so they wouldn't exploit the forest. Since they will benefit when those trees bear fruits, they will be more accessible in caring for the trees," explained Tan who lamented that the Philippines already lost at least 90 percent of its original forest cover.

Yamasaki also added that the reforestation project is also heeding the call of the United Nations after the world body proclaiming 2011 as International Year of the Forests (International Year of the Forests (International Year of the Forests (

Growth in value: The 2011 Honda Accord

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

HONDA MOTOR Co.'s flagship executive sedan, the Accord, has gotten its value in more ways than one. In 2008, when the Accord was so completely restyled that it abandoned its long-established design theme, Honda Cars Philippines Inc. (HCPI) priced the top-of-the-line 2.4 liter VTi variant at P1.098 million. Today, the 2011 3.5 Accord iVTi-L, which is basically the same as the 2008 model except for minor tweaks here and there, costs P2.088 million.

But aside from retail price, the Accord has gained in value terms of value. Since its debut in 1976, over 18 million units of the Accord have been sold in 160 countries. Over the years, the Accord has earned many honors, among them: Japan's Car of the Year earned three times; 28 times to Car and Driver Magazine's 10 Best Cars list; a Recommended rating from Consumer Reports in 2000, 2010 and 2011; and a 2011 Top Recommended Vehicle rating from Edmunds.com. In 2008, the second time the Car of the Year Philippines award and the 2008 the Executive Sedan award of U Magazine.

Back when I was working for a big corporation in Makati, my first executive car was an Accord: with a 2.4 liter VTEC engine and leather seats. It was the executive car most comfortable and most reliable sedan I ever owned. The very same values—spaciousness, riding comfort and reliability—have been carried over and increased in the latest iteration of the Accord. And other values—safety and fuel efficiency—have been enhanced.

THE 2011 Accord's—several modifications include a new front grille and bumper.

What's new

For the 2011 model year, the Accord has undergone a few cosmetic modifications. It has a new front grille and bumper plus chrome garnishing on the trunk. Although Honda classifies the 2011 Accord as a midsize sedan, in the United States the government categorizes it as a large car. That's how big the interior space is, with more head, leg and hip room in both the front and back than other cars in its class. The cabin looks essentially as elegant as that of the 2008 model, which I test drove. Honda Sigaro Manila along with other motoring media in May 2008. What's new inside the 2011 Accord is the Bluetooth hands-free telephone connectivity that is mounted on the driver's side pillar.

The cabin materials are of high quality with rich leather, wood grain panels, swaths of metallic trim on the steering wheel, dash and gear shifter—all put together with excellent craftsmanship. Paddle shifters, a luxurious center console/armrest and a 6-CD changer audio system with six speakers and a subwoofer complete the inside story.

Riding comfort is provided by wide, well-bolstered leather seats and an independent double wishbone coil spring front suspension plus an independent multi-link suspension with coil spring at the rear, both suspensions maximized by stabilizers fore and aft. For a quiet cabin environment, Honda installed a rear floating subframe and thicker front side windows glass to shut out road noise.

The VCM

But what really makes the new 3.5 liter Accord stand out is its V6 i-VTEC engine with Variable Cylinder Management (VCM) that has been carried over from the 2008 model. The VCM activates and deactivates cylinders from 6 to either 4 or 3 cylinders, depending on your driving style, in the process maximizing fuel efficiency and reducing harmful emissions. When the Accord is moving on only 4 or 3 cylinders, an ECO light appears on the instrument panel. Burning on full 6-cylinder capacity, the 3.5 liter, 24-valve engine delivers 275 ps at 6,000 rpm and 34.6 kg/m max. torque at 5000 rpm. That's more than adequate power for a big sedan like the 2011 Accord, as I verified by driving it on the Skyway.

While the Accord's V6 i-VTEC VCM engine and gear shift hold control down low for about Honda has advanced in innovative technology, the manufacturer's continued use of a 5-speed automatic transmission (AT) does not. These days, the 6-speed tranny is considered primitive as the 6-speed AT is tech even in cars that are smaller and much less expensive than the Accord.

A 6-speed AT sometimes so fuel economy but on the other hand the VCM does practically the same thing as proven by the overnight October 23-24, 2008 Department of Energy (DOE) Economy Run when the 3.5 Accord V6 averaged 17.82 km per liter covering 335 kilometers from the DOE-NLEX-SCTEX (Clark-Subic)-NLEX-DOE.

Six airbags

Another value which the Accord sets is safety. The 2011 Accord 3.5 is equipped with six airbags, an Overjoint Position Detection System, ABS with EBD, Vehicle Stability Control, front and rear pushing sensors. It earned a 5-star overall vehicle score from the US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the highest safety rating possible. As for reliability, the new Accord scored 9 out of 10 in the Predicted Reliability Rating of J.D. Power and Associates. The Accord's high resale value is proof enough of its long-term reliability and quality.

Summing up, although the by-then exterior styling and 5-speed gearbox of the Accord indicate Honda has some catching up to do on the entry-of-luxury high-tech resale-immobile competition, the Accord's core values of spaciousness, riding comfort, safety and time-tested reliability can still make it a winner.

THE ACCORD'S high resale value is proof of its long-term reliability and quality.

C! Magazine honors best in class

MITSUBISHI's First Vice President for Sales and Marketing Dante Santos (left) and Advertising and Public Relations Manager Arlan Reyes Jr. display the awards given to their ASX and Montero.

By Alvin Uy

C! MAGAZINE recently held the seventh annual C! Awards at the One Esplanade, honoring the year's best in class cars of the local auto industry. This year's awarding was held in a specially organized gala night where the popular car enthusiast magazine could celebrate in the best cars in the industry. C! Magazine's president Kevin Linjuco and its editor in chief Amiel Doakes played host to the event. Each Read nominee for every category was driven at least 300 kilometers in quality and ride for the awards. Aside from this, the nominees were put through an extensive battery of tests and evaluations by the editorial group of C! Magazine team.

Chef Kito Sison of Las Tinajas provided a sumptuous offdoors Korean gourmet delicacy and just like in past awards, videos of the nominees as well as others specially produced features were shown. These AVPs (audio video productions) will be included in a special free DVD in the C! Annual Buyer's Guide. It was also announced that next year's Annual C! Awards will include awards for exterior and interior.

Although C! Magazine is already a decade old, having been established in June of 2001, the annual C! Awards did not start until after its third year of inception. "The fundamental reason for this is that I required the C! Team to have enough valuable seat time behind the steering wheel of every car sold in the Philippines first, and when I was enough seat time, I am talking about hundreds of test kilometers per vehicle over a myriad of roadside driving conditions so that the categories and the nominees could be clearly defined. We also can cars with the additional year of thought as contenders, if given the budget and need, would we ourselves buy the cars we test. Only through years, months, and sometimes thousands of instrumented test kilometers can we truly compare cars within their set categories alone," said Kevin Linjuco.

"So after three years of testing we were able to finally establish our proper authority and began summarizing the best of the best, with each editor casting their votes, traditionally in the February and March issues of C! with the winners being announced in the following April issue of the magazine. After three years of that format, we were then able to evolve the C! Annual Awards into its current special gala night format where we pay tribute to the automotive industry by recognizing and awarding the very best cars that were sold and tested by the end of March of that year, combined with other special categories, in our own unique way to vehicles launched after the end of March then qualify for the next year's Award show," adds Linjuco.

Among its special awards included The Pachulo Memorial Award (also known as The C! Lifetime Achievement Award) and was presented to the late Rookie Ramirez. The popular race driver recently lost his battle to cancer and just like the late Jesse Pachulo, was dearly loved and well respected by the automotive industry and motorsports community. The whole family was present to receive the awards. The C! Drive of 2010 went to the Lexus LFA while the Consumer Choice Award (Person of public outlook) went to the official C! website amongst all the nominees of the year! went to the Honda Jazz 1.5V.

2011 7th Annual C! Awards

WINNERS

Multi-purpose Vehicle - Toyota Innova 2.5G
Pick-up - Nissan Frontier Navara LE 4x4
Compact SUV (5-seater) - Hyundai Tucson 2.0 CRDi
Compact SUV (7-seater) - Mitsubishi Montero Sport GLS Sport 2.5 VGT
Mid-size SUV - Mazda CX-9
Full-size SUV - Ford Expedition V8 EL
Premium Compact SUV - BMW X3 2.0d
Premium SUV - Nissan Patrol Royale
Compact People Carrier - Kia Carens CRDi EX
Mid-size People Carrier - Toyota Previa 2.4S
Full-Size People Carrier - Hyundai Grand Starex VGT GLS (10-seater)
Premium Super SUV - BMW X5 M
Crossover - Mitsubishi ASX GLS SE
Mid-compact - Suzuki Celerio
Subcompact - Ford Fiesta S
Compact - Toyota Altis 2.0V
Premium Compact - MINI Cooper S
Executive - Subaru Legacy GT Sedan
Premium Sedan - Mercedes-Benz C200 CGI
Premium Executive Sedan - Volvo S80 T6 AWD
Premium Luxury Sedan - BMW 750Li
Sport Sedan/Coupe - Hyundai Genesis Coupe 3.8 V6
Premium Sport Sedan/Coupe - BMW M3 Sedan DCT
Sportscar - Porsche 911 Carrera S PDK
Cabriolet - Ferrari California
GT - Jaguar XKR-175
Supercar - Ferrari 458 Italia

The best rides to combat high fuel prices

By Charles E. Bolton

IT'S ALMOST unthinkable that your P100 is no longer enough to buy two liters of gasoline. There's not much of a difference even if you're filling up your ride with diesel.

Nowadays, the high cost of fuel definitely has become a factor in buying a car. Influencing buyers to go a more fuel-efficient model or variant.

But which one?

Since 2003, the Department of Energy has been organizing fuel economy drive events not only for its fuel efficient drive, but also to promote a safe driving campaign but also to provide a multi-level chart that will guide car buyers volunteers they want to compare fuel consumption of various makes and models of vehicles.

But it was not until 2008 onwards that this annual event started to make so much attention from the public.

The results proved useful even for car companies, especially those who would like to highlight their most fuel efficient models.

Hybrids

In the 2009 edition, the DOE made a historic decision to fill up all participating vehicles with the most environment-friendly E10, gasoline variant blended with 10 percent ethanol.

This highlights the department's effort not only to sell the public to consider models that are not only fuel-efficient but also one that could also reduce emissions.

These DOE runs also highlighted the fact that vehicles belonging to the same category many different price tags (diesel variant is usually priced much higher than their gasoline counterpart), built on well as designed differently that a would be car buyer should also consider that so called "payback time" whenever he or she evaluates or compares models. Payback time refers to the point at which one's savings on fuel will exceed the extra money he/she/it ever is united to get a more fuel-efficient vehicle.

Here are some models that should merit your attention:

Name	Fuel Efficiency	
Suzuki Celerio subcompact hatchback (manual 1.0L gasoline) **Suzuki Alto subcompact hatchback** (manual 0.8L gasoline) **Suzuki Celerio subcompact hatchback** (automatic 1.0L gasoline)	**24.34 km/L** you spend/set P1.15/per km **24 km/L** you spend/set P1.36/per km **21.62 km/L** you spend/set P1.80/per km	Those who love fast cars should think, and those who admire SUVs find those two dimensions rides too claustrophobic for comfort. But things have changed. Increasingly even tech-ones frequent due to the prices of gasoline. Filipino car buyers have taken in love with these two cute offerings from Suzuki that offers not only very low price tag but also higher fuel efficiency and lower running cost. And contenders are quick to take note of this trend.
Chevrolet Sport subcompact hatchback (manual 1.2L gasoline/manual 1.0L gasoline) **Chevrolet Sport subcompact hatchback** (automatic 1.0L gasoline)	**22 km/L** **18 km/L**	It should be interesting to note that another subcompact model proved that with small engine, compact and light weight body would result in fantastic fuel-efficiency rating. This time, Chevrolet Philippines teamed up with rally-cross and rally-racing events organizer Rudenice Motoring Foundation and Automobile Association Philippines to make the fuel efficiency test possible.
Kia Motors' Picanto subcompact hatchback (manual 1.1L gasoline)	**20.8 km/L**	The Picanto topped fuel (and's edition where the 26 participating vehicles drove 182.8 kilometers starting from DOE office in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City to Lipa City Hall in Batangas and back. This is the model that achieved a 26.2 km/L fuel efficiency rating in a test/trial conducted by Kia Philippines.
Honda Jazz compact hatchback (automatic 1.5L gasoline) **Honda City compact sedan** (manual 1.3L gasoline)	**21.68 km/L** you spend/set P1.42/per km **20.67 km/L** you spend/set P1.86/per km	Apart from the DOE organized fuel-efficiency run, the Jazz also made headlines in the Petron Kia Mini-Challenge experience in the 2008 edition, when an automatic 1.3 Jazz ran 1,462.4 km on a single tank of fuel. This figure broke the previous records set by motoring icons Pechuko Ramirez (1,111.6 km) in 2005 and Isaac Zajnu Hermanos (1,100 km) in 2006.
Ford Fiesta compact hatchback (automatic 1.6L gasoline)	**21.66 km/L**	The Fiesta is only capable model worldwide where the 1.6 engine traveled more than 800 km on a single tank of gas, driving from Chiang Mai to Bangkok in Thailand. Two models were used, 1.6L Trend Sport 5dr hatchback model and the other a 1.6L Fiesta Sport 4dr sedan model. Both were still fresh when up to 19 liters.
Hyundai Getz compact hatchback (manual 1.1L diesel) **Hyundai Accent compact sedan** (manual 1.5L diesel)	**26.22 km/L** you spend/set P1.82/per km **23.38 km/L** you spend/set P1.91/per km	The Korean automaker has attracted the attention of car buyers, thanks to its eyeing' innovative edgy designs. But ever before this, Hyundai became famous for introducing diesel powered engine in passenger cars here in the Philippines.
Toyota Prius mid-size sedan (automatic 1.8L gasoline-electric hybrid)	**24.22 km/L** you spend/set P1.83/per km	Introduced in 1997, the Prius has become the most selling hybrid in the world with more than 2 million vehicles already sold worldwide. As the world's first mass produced gasoline-electric hybrid, the Prius helps cars emission levels or global warming carbon dioxide—by approximately 10 million tons—equivalent to what would have been emitted by gasoline-powered vehicles of similar size and performance for 14 years.
Toyota Corolla Altis mid-size sedan (manual 1.6L gasoline) **Toyota Vios compact sedan** (automatic 1.5L gasoline)	**16.46 km/L** you spend/set P1.56/per km **20.44 km/L** you spend/set P1.56/per km	Coming up with reasonably priced, long-lasting vehicles has made Toyota the best selling brand here in the Philippines. What made this 2009 edition of the DOE fuel economy run more interesting for Toyota is the fact that these two models, belonging to two separate segments, finished with an almost identical kilometers per liter fuel consumption.
Ford Focus compact hatchback (manual 2.0L diesel)	**21.28 km/L** you spend/set P1.15/per km	At the 2010 Ford Focus Quest to Coast Challenge (Dumaguete in Mindanao to Pagudpud in Ilocos Norte), this model set a new fuel economy record of 25.3 km/L after covering 1,432.3 kilometers on a single tank of diesel.
Isuzu D-Max 4x2 pickup (manual 2.5L diesel) **Toyota Hilux pickup** (manual 2.5L diesel) **Mitsubishi Strada 2x4 pickup** (manual 2.5L Diesel)	**20.67 km/L** you spend/set P1.20/per km **18.42 km/L** you spend/set P1.48/per km **18.07 km/L** you spend/set P1.48/per km	Some three heavy duty and ubiquitous diesel powered workhorses from the country's most trusted brands should own it car buyer's attention because despite their powerful engines, they could still deliver great savings for their owners. It's interesting to note that Isuzu Philippines Corp.'s organized fuel efficiency run held last year, a manual 4x2 D-Max averaged 24.26 km/L after running 1,944 kilometers on one full tank of diesel.
Mazda CX-7 mid-size SUV (automatic 2.5L gasoline) **Isuzu Alterra 4x2 full-size SUV** (manual 3.0L diesel)	**16.17 km/L** you spend/set P1.17/per km **19.44 km/L** you spend/set P1.21/per km	Another interesting result in the SUV category of the 2008 DOE Fuel Economy Run was the fact that despite its 1,770+ tare weight and big engine displacement, the Alterra still exhibited an excellent mark when compared to the rest of the participants powered by more advanced vs smaller displacement engines.
Kia Carens multipurpose vehicle (manual 2.0L diesel) **Toyota Innova multipurpose vehicle** (manual 2.5L diesel) **Isuzu Sportivo Asian utility vehicle** (manual 2.0L diesel)	**18.29 km/L** you spend/set P1.36/per km **18.41 km/L** you spend/set P1.52/per km **18.07 km/L** you spend/set P1.50/per km	Looking for a reasonably priced family transporter? Consider these three top best rotors as tested by the DOE.
BMW 320d compact luxury sedan (automatic 2.0L diesel) **BMW X3 compact luxury SUV** (automatic 3.0L diesel) **Volvo S40 compact luxury sedan** (automatic 2.0L gasoline)	**20.83 km/L** you spend/set P1.24/per km **16.83 km/L** you spend/set P1.78/per km **12.42 km/L** you spend/set P1.81/per km	Of course, the DOE fuel economy runs also invited a number of multi-million peso luxury models. While fuel-efficiency rating would likely be the least of their worries as buyers' concern, it is interesting to note that these three are models who made significant inroads in bettering their equally expensive counterparts.

Rain or Shine

Pampanga Home Depot Hosts 1st Pampanga Motorshow

MUSCLE cars are a regular fet in Pampanga auto

SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga—The Home Depot Pampanga branch hosted the 1st Pampanga Motorshow over the weekend, its theme dubbed as "Inspiring with Wheels." The Home Depot has been known to regularly hold auto shows and car club gatherings in other branches which was started by its first branch, the Original Home Depot, some of years ago this fondly called "EDSY" or "eyeball events." Its expansive parking make these events reminiscent of the hectic open car park gatherings of the 1980s where car enthusiasts gather together in commercial parking lots to show their rides, new and custom cars expected to mingle with the car owners, have their photos taken beside these newly seen cars. Unlike most indoor car shows, these cars were not confined off and restricted to view from afar.

Despite the uncertain weather, good weather prevailed and car enthusiasts were treated to a blast from the past as over 300 classic and custom cars, 4x4 SUVs, motorbikes and even classic stainless bicycles paraded on the open parking grounds of the Pampanga Home Depot located along MLQU corner Olongapo-Gapan Road. Some 4x4 vehicles, European and Japanese classic cars, American muscle cars, custom-muscle drift cars as well as motorbikes were showcased in the first-ever Pampanga auto event.

Both the cities of San Fernando and Angeles in Pampanga are known for its active drag racing events and go-kart races and its Angeles Hot Rod Association remains one of the oldest drag racing clubs in the Philippines. Both cities as "hotspots," these V-8 American muscle cars are a regular feature in the custom car culture. In these two cities. Since muscle car craze during the heydays of the American military presence in the 1970s, many muscle car enthusiasts are part of Pampanga's persona. More recently, offroad driving by Pampanga's local 4x4 clubs have also formed an active component in the province's automotive landscape. It is common to hear about 4x4 trekking adventures in the various outdoor backroads of its lahar terrains, river

A CLASSIC Chevy Bel Air greets the visitors to the Pampanga Motorshow

runs and other sites in the nearby Mount Pinatubo. Last 1991, the centuries-old dormant volcano exploded one of the largest eruptions of the 20th century leaving behind ever-lasting ashen fall-out and calamity sites for 4x4 adventure seekers. The recent opening of Clark Speedway had also definitely added to the motor sports awareness to the province.

A chance to win a trip for two to Singapore GP

Raffle and quiz contest prizes were given away all throughout the day from Formula One merchandise courtesy of Red Bull Travel and other freebies from The Home Depot and Mister Car Shampoo. The motorshow participants were asked to join for a chance to win a trip for two, courtesy of Inquirer Motoring and Singapore GP, to one part of lucky Formula One fans will win a pair of round trip airfares in chocking three tickets (tickets only with race tickets to the 2011 FORMULA 1 SINGTEL SINGAPORE GRAND PRIX Grand Prix Manila on September 23rd and returning on the 26th of September 2011). To join the contest, send an e-mail to fun@inquirer.net with your name, address, contact numbers, and write in 25 words or less why you should be sent to the Singapore Grand Prix. Last day of submission shall be at 12 noon of Sept. 9, 2011. One entry per household will be allowed. For more information about the race and its events, visit www.singaporegp.sg. For more information on how to purchase tickets and travel packages to SGP locally, contact Red Rock Travel at 631 4041/45, 7266614 and 09159021114 or visit their website at www.redrocktravel.net.

This event was organized by Team Adventure Pampanga with the help of Villa Production and was co-presented by General Motors Advanced Tech Training Center, and Inqs Bakdoor Grill. The other sponsors were Subaru Pampanga, St. Catherine Realty, Cignal Digital TV, Bank of Philippine Islands, Petron, Shine for Shampoo, Pampanga's Sun, Coca-Cola San Nic and Marquee Residences.

Amazing from all angles.

Introducing the new Toyota Fortuner.

Since its introduction in 2005, the Fortuner has been a formidable frontrunner in the SUV segment. Developed from the international innovative multi-purpose Vehicle platform or IMV, over 41,000 Fortuner units have been sold to date. Seen as the SUV benchmark, the Fortuner is ready to raise the bar again with its latest iteration.

BOLDER EXTERIOR

The new Fortuner features a bolder exterior that evokes a powerful and solid image. Upgrades include a front-end design inspired by constant forward motion, highlighted by its distinct character lines. The grille takes the shape of an inverted trapezoid, delivering prestige and confidence. The new HID projector headlamps with auto-levelling function, available for the variant, take the initiative of adjusting to any driving condition.

When the new Fortuner is viewed from the side, it is obvious that the new fenders invoke a more powerful stance. Combined with the front-end design, the character lines also contrast forward motion. Its power-folding side mirrors with integrated side turn lamps and redesigned 17 inch alloy wheels add up to the sophisticated look of the new Fortuner.

The rear combination lamps, new license plate garnish and bumper shape work together to express power and contextual respect. The smooth transition between the body and the bumper creates clean lines that seamlessly complement each other. Many color options are also available, with the addition of Dark Steel Mica and Silky Gold Mica Metallic. Nothing was left untuned to provide you with a new Fortuner that is truly amazing from all angles.

SOPHISTICATED INTERIOR

Once you step inside the new Fortuner, the prestige of this ride is even more evident. Aside from the redesigned instrument panel cluster, the Optitron meter gauges, stunning wheel with audio and MID switches, 2-DIN audio with Bluetooth and streaming functions, USB/iPod connectivity, two-tone interior color scheme and leather appointments with black wood interior accents all come together to comprise a more luxurious interior.

The dual automatic climate control system allows you to capture the temperature you desire with just a push of a button. With ceiling-mounted aircon vents, the rear passengers experience similar cooling comfort. Complete with spacious legroom and the most comfortable third row seats in its class, the Fortuner's convenience and comfort features are clearly topnotch.

EXCEPTIONAL RIDING COMFORT

Rave about the new Fortuner's exceptional riding comfort, with special suspension tuning for both front and rear plus the addition of a wind deflector, it has evolved to have an even smoother ride without sacrificing the stability that it is known for. The level of comfort is essentially the same whether you're on the wheel or sitting in the back seat. Taking on any road surface, your ride remains just as comfortable. The new Fortuner guarantees a first-class ride even when the going gets tough.

SUPERIOR PERFORMANCE

Rise to the top with the Fortuner's massive engine power, through its D-4D and VVT-i technologies. The 3.0L variant generates up to 163 PS / 3,400 rpm of power and torque of up to 343 Nm / 1,400 - 3,200 rpm. The advanced 16-valve DOHC 2.7 VVT-i engine delivers up to 160 PS / 5,200 rpm and maximum torque of 241 Nm / 3,800 rpm.

Wrapped inside all this technology is a ride that puts your safety above all else. The vehicle is complete with passive and active safety features like back sonar, anti-lock braking system (ABS), OAA body structure and dual SRS airbag system so you can take on all the unexpected twists while traveling.

Make a statement on the road by taking the new Fortuner for a spin.

Lilit Thelma Bunsol San Juan

LIFESTYLE Parenting

What awaits you and your child at good old Museo Pambata

By Amelie S. Tayao

LIKE A child persistent in getting what he wants, Museo Pambata (MP) on Roxas Boulevard doesn't get tired of introducing unique programs and exhibits for its young patrons.

The museum presents a monthly menu of events, even on the "off-peak" season of April to July. MP president and CEO Nina Lim-Yuson attributes such success to "our staff going, never going culture."

MP's activities range from weekly story-telling sessions, dance-along performances by groups like Manila Junior Company, theater and shadow plays, even arts and crafts workshops facilitated by the museum's guides. Add to that MP's exhibits, and it's a one-stop hub for interactive learning.

"Children learn with their senses," says Yuson. "What they see, hear, smell, taste and hold, they understand."

'Children learn with their senses. What they see, hear, smell, taste and hold, they understand'

New rooms

The museum's newest room, opened just last January, holds the "I Love My Planet Earth" exhibit, a joint project of MP and Motiveola Foundation USA. The showcase teaches museum-goers how to be more hands-on when it comes to addressing environmental issues.

Segregation is introduced through visual aids of different garbage, which kids must apply their video-game playing savvy and redirect to the bins. Filipino toys like sungka and trumpo

In another room, aptly named "Paglaki Ko," kids are introduced to the concept of career options, which may seem too early a topic for an audience of 2-12 years old. "But children need choices other than what they usually see on TV," says Yuson.

MUSEO Pambata's "I Love My Planet Earth" exhibit makes learning about the environment a kid-friendly experience.

KIDS rediscover simple, traditional toys about. Josie about: pusa (Pakistan), Kaya and Tinta-Hija Kilang, from Lagawe, Ifugao

CHILDREN from Bunso participate in an interactive storytelling session facilitated by Sipat Lawin Ensemble.

Earth" exhibit, a joint project of MP and Motiveola Foundation USA. The showcase teaches museum-goers how to be more hands-on when it comes to addressing environmental issues.

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MONSOON MADNESS
ROOMS for as low as P1,450++ an Indio Rooming
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SEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

MUTTS

SHERMAN'S LAGOON — BY JIM TOOMEY

DUSTIN — BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER

TULDOG — BY MARA CULL

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that each row, column, and every 3×3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more programs visit www.sudoku.com

Answers to previous puzzle

6	3	8	7	5	1	2	4	9
4	2	1	8	9	6	3	5	7
7	9	5	3	4	2	8	6	1
8	7	6	1	2	5	4	9	3
3	4	9	6	8	7	1	2	5
5	1	2	4	3	9	7	8	6
9	8	7	5	1	3	6	4	2
1	6	4	2	7	8	5	3	9
2	5	3	9	6	4	9	1	8

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

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Difficulty Level ★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

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10 Hurricane, after
11 Irish Lass portrayer
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SHOWCASE of bountiful herbal and health-promoting plants at Kartini Alabang Town Center

NINA MALVAR recommends regular consumption of aronia leaves for the control of diabetes as well as hypertension. Orbed stevia leaves contain many vitamins and trace elements such as selenium, cobalt, chromium.

Edible landscape in Alabang

KARTINI ASIA recently hosted an Art and Garden Festival, which showcased the garden exhibit by Nina Malvar of her edible landscape, using herbs and edible ornamental plants.

Malvar also collaborated in organic agriculture with Gil Gumeling, considered the "Father of Organic Farming" in the country. Malvar launched Kartini's "Let's Plant and Eat Organic" fitness tip tito et tapa" campaign to promote public interest in planting organic herbs and edible plants to help in the prevention of diseases.

Kartini is working with the Federation of Free Farmers of the Philippines in developing farmer farms using organic agriculture.

Malvar's love for plants and the growing trend in nutraceuticals and organic farming led her to study health-promoting plants at the Institute of Biological Sciences at the University of the Philippines.

The gardens at Kartini provide a wonderful backdrop to Malvar's fresh flower arrangements at Kartini Flora. Her creations lovely bouquets and vases using orchids, lilies, heliconias, centurions and roses.

The Festival also featured the works of Nemuel Armir Abdulmari from Sitao. A Fulbright scholar and the first artist recipient of the New York Museum of Modern Art Grant, Imao is the first Moro and the only one to date to be honored as National Artist of the Philippines for his works on Muslim art and culture. Imao's work is on exhibit at Kartini.

EXQUISITE Indonesian home accessories

Kartini Asia opened its doors in 2003, founded by Malvar, a renowned landscape artist, plant enthusiast and art patron.

Kartini Spa, at the heart of Alabang Town Center, is a soothing oasis where you can melt away all your fatigue and stress and rejuvenate mind and body.

"I created a spa amid tropical gardens where clients would find it good to be one to escape from their day-to-day environment," says Malvar. "There's already a mini shift at the start of the treatment, a very important experience of relaxation."

The Royal Javanese "Lulur" scrub and Kartini "Pijat" massage are the signature treatments at Kartini Spa. The lulur scrub with massage, which costs P1,500, uses Javanese lulur, a granular powder containing turmeric and sandalwood, which is mixed with natural ingredients such as rice powder and aromatic herbs freshly harvested at Kartini's herbal garden. This is gently massaged to exfoliate the top layers of dead skin followed by a refreshing shower and a relaxing massage.

The Kartini "Pijat" massage, which costs P600 for one hour and 15 minutes uses a combination of Balinese long strokes and Swedish massage to relax tensed muscles.

The spa also offers spa packages with meals at Kartini Café Alfresco for as low as P1,000 per person. The Kartini Spa Lifetime Membership Club and the Kartini Spa Gift Certificates are ideal gifts for special occasions.

Kartini Café Alfresco at Kartini Spa offers healthy meals and serves soup, pasta dishes, sandwiches, salad dishes, fresh fruit juices, and freshly brewed coffee or tea to please the palate of discerning diners.

Café Kartini is known for their delectable pasta preparations, prepared from the freshest of ingredients from Kartini's herbal garden source.

Kartini at Alabang Town Center is ideal for people who like nature to be close at hand, or for those who just need to slow down and are looking for a quiet and peaceful place to relax and unwind.

LISANTHUS arrangement

NATIVISM: Artist Abdulmari Asia Imao beside sculpture and painting on exhibit

THE ART & Garden Festival was formally opened by Kartini Asia Inc. president Nina Malvar, Imao, former Sen. Joe Magsaysay, barangay captain Freddy Burgos and Grace Imao.

NINA Malvar creates fresh flower arrangements.

HEALTHY and delicious Bunny Salad

FRONTING Kartini entrance gate is the open parking lot at Kartini Alabang Town Center.

MAIN entrance featuring carved teak door; Ganesh statues and tropical plants

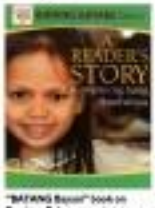
What awaits you and your child at good old Museo Pambata

From page C1

Increasing literacy

Recently exhibited in the "Pagkaki Ko" room are the works of illustrator Frances Aleonar, which basically explains the book making process. Kids can also take their time and read the different books in the room, or try out costumes based on characters in the books. To complement the exhibit, MP has a "Pagkaki Ko" 12-book series, which features profiles of 10-15 years old who excel in their respective fields.

KIDS can take their time to browse through books in the "Pagkaki Ko" room.



"BATANG Bayani" book on Presidente Cubao, a passionate reader despite being half-blind

Other books are available at MP, after all, one of the museum's major concerns is to increase literacy among children. It's not just about teaching the technicalities of how to read, but also developing early enough a genuine love of reading.

Among those books is the "Batang Bayani" series, stories of outstanding children who surpass challenges despite physical disabilities, or kids recognized for their cultural achievements.

"We really encourage storytelling, not just the ABCs," says Ysasco. "We feel that if children learn to love storytelling, they will look for it on their own."

"We've learned that our children really need to read and hear," she adds.

Participation in MP's activities is free with the P300 admission fee, both for children and adults. Museo Kuwy are at 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Sundays (narrative); 1-3 p.m. on holidays. MP is at Roxas Blvd. cor. Finlandia Drive, Manila; call 5267367 or 58, 5208898; e-mail to ph@museopambata.org.

ANA NIKKI Santos, her sister Cris Albert, Donna de la Cruz, Mia Gastroya

THE CELEBRATION among the sparklers out of another fabulous pose

PEACH Cabrera, Margot Cabrera, Nina Cuesa, Ivana Yulo

TIM YAP, the celebrant, Sari Paz

TIMMY Tee, our photographer Alex Van Hagen

Ecuadorian roses imported for birthday bash

PAM Zulueta, Sarah's Patrick Tan

JB ISAAC, twins Ana Marcaida and JP Reyes, Stephen Ko

CLIFF Cole, JM Rodriguez, Bambee Fernandez

SAAB Magsaysay, Nikki Rodriguez, Ria Gamboa, Kenneth Peter, Dante Milan, Meg Hilario

DANUSSIA Cadenas, Danielle Cadenas, Paulina Prieto-Gil in Solaris swimwear

SOLARIS's Maggi Wilson-Crescenzi, Sandra Sanvictores

LORENZO Ramirez, Malu de Leon, David Milan

ERIK Cua with his baby love Regine King, Danielle Cadenas, Sandra Sanvictores, Stephen Ko

SHE WALKS by, and all eyes are on her. She's beautiful, adorable and vivacious. She's been voted as one of our town's best-dressed women. She helps her husband manage and run the renowned Villa brand, and is in demand for loads of events. With all these attributes, she also has a gold-en heart.

No wonder loads of high-end cars led to the popular Quezon Society World Manila, in honor of Mia's goddess Cris Albert, no less.

Photos by Alex Van Hagen
presented by MEGA PHAC CENTER

The invitees were a wonderful, cohesive mix close to Cris' heart: marketer and entrepreneur Tim Yap, fashion editor Ami Yuzon, her friends Irene Yeh and Ouzzie de la Cruz, Ariella's Tammy Tan, stage actress and director Ana Abad Santos, favorite photographer Alex Van Hagen, and, not, to name a few of the closest ones.

Cris was effortlessly sexy in a black Rubin Singa outfit. Sister-in-law Cris Albert, beautiful, she trusted guests in a night of luxury and love, which is so Cris, pulongpo.

With her outrageous fantasies and a champagne flute in her hand, the Pita princess entertained with amazing flair, as Mimi's songs filled the air. Her signature bubbly blew in Chandon Rose, flowed abundantly.

Prepared by chef Cedric Miguel, the meal consisted of twice-baked portobello truffle, beet carpaccio, spiced lamb delights, pan-roasted Chilean sea bass, modern duck a la orange and succulent rib eye with truffles and mashed potato.

The finale was the to-die-for dark chocolate fondant with salty caramel ice cream and melt fonts that absolutely melted in our mouth, pulongpo! Guests made heartfelt speeches that brought tears of joy to the celebrant.

(Cont.)

Boracay face-off

Boracay Round 3: The Final Journey gathered show biz, entertainers, models, celebrities and other VIPs in Boracay for a series of games and challenges.

They came in full force via one of my favorite ways to get to that island—boat's 25-minute flight. Party organizer Stephen Kuchel the ship, dubbings.

As the sun strolled down in Boracay as seen from the official sunset venue, Solaire at the Boracay Tides Hotel, swashbuckling Gus Miguel Lighi drilled everyone, before the party broke loose that night. The party lasted till the sun started to rise from the other side of the island.

Mandala's restaurant open wooded Spa Boracay.

The awesome happening ended with impromptu taking Epic by storm and bringing the house down. Golden Bubba were they then, sands!

Boracay Round 4 was an Eventscape Manila and Mediabrands Handpromotion.

HEALTH and Beyond's newest brand ambassadors Simon Gruenwich, Micaji Bahadoran, Bob Gini, Arnie del Rosario and Nikki Borlaza, with president Miguel Garcia

LARA Chikadora and Sol Soriano of TVS with Nats Barlow and Frank Briones, Thinline Advertising president

MA-GAMBOA, Philippine Tatler fashion editor Nina Estacio

THE ADMINS for Health and Beyond with Frank Briones, president of Thinline Advertising, and team-lider Dhenor Calang, BCCo and Tin Bolocado

Aplods are health-store chain endorsers

Health and Beyond, a chain of stores catering to health and sports buffs, launched its newest brand ambassadors—the awesome Philippine Athletic Sentinel del Rosario, Bob Gini, Nikki Borlaza, Simon Gruenwich and Nats Barlow.

The trio endorse happening was held at the chain's store at Power Plant, Rockwell.

The Aplods were thrilled by Health and Beyond "feels effort to promote living an active and healthy lifestyle," explained Frank Briones, president of Thinline.

Invitees had a blast when the football heroes personally helped them in choosing vitamins and supplements fit for their personal lifestyle, dubbings.

"Health and Beyond believes in the saying that, 'Being healthy is not a luxury, but an absolute necessity,'" said Miguel Garcia, president of Health and Beyond. "We are offering this step ahead of our season, top-quality food supplements, vitamins and even products addressing sports nutrition. We help fuel them

TEAM Ray-Ban

TEAM Globe Tattoo

(STANDING) CWC Scholars with Cornelia Hermoso, Jeanelly Dela Peniguel, pre-enrollment and Extracurricular chair Marie Badilla, president Mira Valerio, Sandy Bernadino, chair Ella Fandon and VP-Fund Mara Lucero

CWC GAWAD KALINGA VILLAGE. (Standing) Carmen Hermoso, Regina Nicanor, Baby Esguerra, Mimi Valerio, Clare Quesada, Chino Enriquez, Rose Maria Lucero, Carla Limjoco, chair Dusie Restrigo, Vicky Edging, Lin Jhoco, Ender Ranada, Tessie Amparo with (seated) CWC beneficiaries

CWC EARTH day in Aeroscenic Forest Park: Tessie Valerio, Menchie Pascual, Abel Gaviño, Mimi Valerio, Rose Maria Lucero, Regina Paterno, Shirley Qu, Sol Tan Gaston

Catholic Women's Club holds dinner-for-a-cause

Celebrating its 90th year, the Catholic Women's Club will hold Extravaganza, a dinner dance affair on Sept. 3, at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel, dubbings.

Proceeds of the shindig-go event will help the club "in pursue and expand its various charities, particularly the educational program in partnership with the Don Bosco Technical Institute, Pasiano School and the PGH Laboratory High School, the beneficiaries of Ateneo de Manila University and CWC's ongoing project with Tanual Siklings in Taguig City," explained CWC president Mira Valerio and Extravaganza chair Nanie Bustillo.

Cam Monzer Mercedes-Benz and Shiseido-Authentic are co-presenters of the event.

So there, pulongpo, and support this cause-good cause.

PANNY Oh and Jason Sakin, present to support their roommates

MARIRA Tan, Shot Magazine editor in chief April Bautista

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emeritus G. Velarde

DID YOU KNOW...

ROME— Luc Besson's "The Lady," inspired by Burma (Myanmar) pro-democracy leader and Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, will open the International Rome Film Festival which runs Oct. 21 to Nov. 4. The movie, presented out of competition, recounts Suu Kyi's political and personal struggles and stars Hollywood actress Michelle Yeoh. It's about a love story, about Suu Kyi and her late British husband Michael Aris, and details their long separation while Suu Kyi was detained. (Reuters)

Lovi on FPJ's supposed victory in 2004 election

LOVI Poe

Truth shall prevail, says Kapuso actress

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

THERE are two subjects that Gloria T. actress Lovi Poe would rather not discuss: her father, the late actor-turned-politician Fernando Poe Jr., and politics.

But recently, her dad was in the news again when she went to declare him as the true winner of the 2004 presidential race painted (maximum, in light of recent disclosures of alleged electoral cheating).

"It's not (it is positive to talk about that. There are people who are (admirably more qualified... but I believe in what is right," Lovi told Inquirer Entertainment.

She insists that the truth will prevail in the end. "As his daughter," she added, "I will always be on his side."

In the past, Lovi said, she had declined to speak about her relationship with FPJ in deference to his first family. "That was my personal choice," she said. "I thought a lot of people might get affected. It was best to keep it private."

But she knew it was just a matter of time before she did. "I am inspired by his legacy" said Lovi. "I have truly good stories about him. He was well-respected in the movie industry."

Favorite FPJ film

Her favorite FPJ film, by the way, is "Ito ba ang Sabi ng Lola." "He was so handsome, and Susan Roces so beautiful, in their prime."

Although she was abroad for a short during his dad's birthday on Aug. 20, she made it a point upon her return to visit his grave at the North Cemetery.

How she wished he had been around to see that three award-giving bodies had proclaimed her best actress, that she received glowing reviews for her work on "Joey Gosiengfiao's Temptation. In fact," said that she continues to do well in her television work (on GMA 7, with "Captain Barbell" and "Fairy Pilipinas").

She would rather not brag all the (evil, though she was singled out by critics as the worst starlet among the "Temptation" girls. "We were all good. I just had the coolest role," she explained.

Also, she would rather not comment on the controversy that plagued the set of that movie, and the feud that erupted between costars Marian Rivera and Sheri Evangelista. "I'd like to think that we're all friends," she said. "I don't listen to intrigues. What's important is that I know the truth."

She categorically denied a reported rivalry with her "My Neighbor's Wife" costar and fellow Kapuso Girls shellmate. "I'm not the type who would compete with others. In any case, I hate drama. It's enough that I do drama scenes at work," Lovi said.

Lovi is currently working on a horror flick, Jewell Ismyl's "Nosuang," with Singalong Drama. She is confident that their steamy scenes will not upset Marian, Singalong's girlfriend. "She knows it's just work," Lovi said.

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To die for

THE MAN when the death of show biz stars mean dirs time for their relatives and estates, because the celebs' income-generating potential was effectively ended by their demise.

But the institution of royalties and "residuals" has changed that and succeeds in a big way in even long-dead icons like Elvis Presley and Marilyn Monroe continue to earn millions of dollars in new income, which their loved ones and estate benefit from.

The biggest instance of late has been struck by the death of Michael Jackson, whose old records, released in revival editions, provide solace and nostalgic memories for his diehard fans. Most recently, the death of young singer Amy Winehouse has shocked her followers, and her albums have also shot back to the billboard charts.

Those upbeat figures are, as a show biz observer aptly observes, "no dice for," and proof positive that some stars' "brand names," if kept constantly in the public eye (and heart), could end up as gifts that could keep on giving—to perpetuity.

Neisher U. Torre

Question is, can celebs' fame be passed on to their progeny and other relatives? The popularity of the Baldwin brothers shows the answer is "yes," but what's happened in the Collin siblings suggests it can also be a "no." Most of Francis Ford Coppola's family works in show biz, with daughter Sofia currently leading the brood in terms of talent and output.

Sofia Roberto debuted in "Blood Feud" in 1986, a film starring her brother, Eric, but she's gone on to a high flying career, while he crash landed a long time ago. Similarly, Maribel from agency made her debut in 1976's "Lipstick," starring big sister Mariagrace—but both of them have faded away since.

And, despite Sylvester Stallone's popularity his brother Frank Stallone has failed in both his singing and acting careers. Ones for life's career, huge Macedonian Stallone, whose fledgling show biz career quickly went pfft.

Successful second generation stars include Carrie Fisher, Drew Barrymore, Charlie Sheen, Melanie Griffith and Jaden Smith, but many more stellar siblings or offsprings' careers have gone the way of all flesh and fields.

Prolific show biz clans

Filipino stars are much more successful in launching their progeny or relatives in star-dom—up to the third and fourth generations! The country's most prolific show biz clans are the Roque-Arevalos, the Padillas, the Revillas, the Jalosjos family, the Bolinaos, the Eigenmanns, the Gutierrezes and the Salvadors.

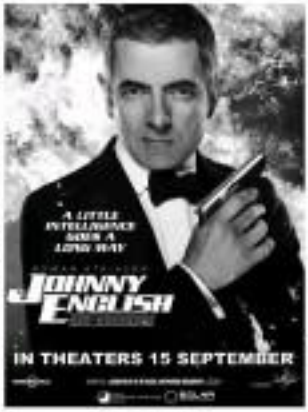
Literally scores of stars and starlets can trace their roots to these prolific clans, which obviously believe there's always room for new screen-ers in the "family business."

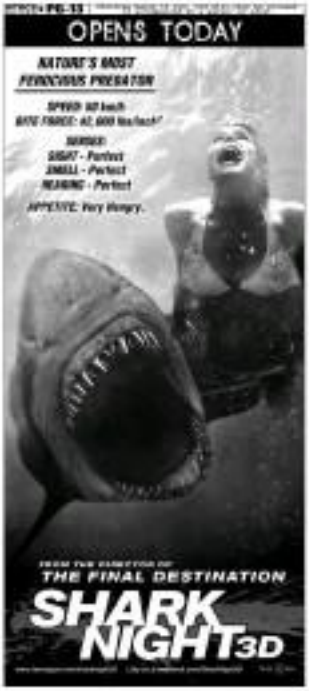
In addition, increasingly influential show business clans have interestingly effected a new development—the "cross pollination" between stellar families.

The most recent example of this is Aurelio, the daughter of Ramon Christopher and Lorlie de Leon, whose grandparents are Cobo a deep (secret) Mary Annor, Christopher de Leon, Pilita Corrales, Eddie Fuster pa—and their sons.

Hmm, that sort of stellar "intermarriage" is also to die for.

JANINE Gutierrez: Check out her show biz lineage.





CAMERON Diaz in "Bad Teacher"

SHARK Night 3D

JOEL Torre in "Deep Gold"

Opening Today

Zombadings 1: Patayin sa Shokot si Remington

Directed by Jade Castro; stars Dante Rivero, Lauren Young, Roderick Paulate, Eugene Domingo, Janice de Belen, John Regala

As a kid, Remington (Rivero) resolve a promotion gig (Paulate) who puts a curse on him. He still lives quiet when he grows up. Press the same locks front, behind "Stay Papabahayin si Mang Gloveren" and "Tanks." this unsup comedy crosses genres and pays homage to male 1980s cult creatures as Chasing Eddie and Joey Gosangelitas. "I wanted everyone to elevate and crew to have fun and go wild creatively," Castro says.

Wedding Tayo, Wedding Hindi

Directed by Jose Javier Reyes; Eugene Domingo, Toni Gonzaga, Sitwdell Ramos, Zanjoe Marudo, Lou Veloso, Mangie Labalan

Two thirty friends (Domingo, Gonzaga) attempt to prove that marriage is either the best or worst thing that can happen to a modern woman. Mayhem ensues, of course. Director Reyes recalls that this comedy caper was "so much fun during the shooting, as it was watching it onscreen, during the editing process." While he and Eugene have worked countless times before, it's the first time he directed Toni. "They are happy-crazy women."

Bad Teacher

Directed by: John Kardyna; stars Cameron Diaz, Justin Timberlake, Jason Segel, Molly Shannon, John Michael Higgins, David Wain

Filthy girl (Diaz) wants school job, so she applies as a school teacher for the rich brats—filthy as underage for high test scores. Los Angeles Times' Betsy Sharkey calls it "a heartening mix of smart flesh and smirking impudence." New York Times' Rhonda Jorgin agrees: "It's the kind of brand comedy that dramatizes its gut ugly and... necessity." New Yorker's Anthony Lane notes: "You might applaud the gall of the film."

Deep Gold

Directed by Michael Christmas; stars Bebe Phone, Arjenne Ong, Lenny Pendent, Joel Torre, Kristen Hot, Michael Christmas

Cleanup show: Phone emerges into the disappearance of her boyfriend and a gold loot his plane crash. Brian Gandolf of brimstone-dyed emergency-use is "either a deep awakening thrills... thick-fingered, clumsy." Pitney Sullivan of sanpatrimo.wordpress.com was impressed by "its utter unconscious... filmmaker was trying to make something spectacular." Francisdpick.com describes it as "a throwback to 1950s low-night radio movies."

Shark Night 3D

Directed by David R. Ellis; stars Sharon Stone, Alyssa Diaz, Sara Paxton, Dustin Milligan, Chris Carmack, Katharine McPhee

Young revelers are attacked by deadly sharks in the Louisiana gulf. Bloodspattered Americans compare it to "Piranhas 3D," only rated PG-13 so it's going to be missing all the good stuff... blood and boobs." Dread-centered.com quips: "Shit is a dead-armed flick! Boring and blood are just about a given." A Forbes Fantasies reviewer remarks: "There but-potential here of Discovery Channel's 'Shark Week' strung into a movie."

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ENTERTAINMENT

Francine: It's hard to work with an ex

I TELL Francine Prieto's pain when I interviewed her for the "Maalaala Mo Kaya" segment on "Pinoy Parazzi." It's been a year since her name paired up/ but she's still in the process of healing.

"It's tough because Mo was our pillar of strength," she said. "Sinasama niya kaming magkakapatid sa simbahan. Nakita kayo dati nakaluhod kami sa harap niya dito sa bahay."

She took over her Mo's duties which is quite a burden for her. "I support my family but this sad part is yummy. Di pa super pero sa mga dinanas ko ang galing ko sa acting. Mas nakakaiyak," she added. "Kaya hinahanap ako ng mga tao para sa mga show. Sana ligtas na ako sa mga drama. Sana ligtas na rin ako ng mga tao sa mga ganyan sa buhay ko. Nakakapagod maarteng panoorin yung dalagita."

Besides career and love life are in disarray. "Dinedate ako ng ilan dito sumabit ako," she said. "Parang lil kids nagpapaawa ako ng sorry ma ay sumabit. Ewan ko. Ang hirap pressure ko kasi now. Ambilis ko akong ng problema, wala na akong gustong kausapin."

Her camera-ready romance with **Robby Yan** has reached its ahhhh-inducing drama. "Ex DBL," smiled on a wine note. "It's hard to work with an ex," she said, "lalo na if di nila final breakup. And me being me, gusto ko ayos kami sa show. Friends naman kami, but she's not in still there. So I'm asked management to transfer me to another show so I cooked Jenny."

Her Facebook status "I hate God" elicited so much chit. "Hurt my judge so after that post, she recalled. "Ayo ginulo akong pinagkakaisan ko."

But she vowed to have a more positive outlook now. "I take back those hurtful words," she said. "I've prayed for forgiveness. I hope that after all those trials, God's blessings await me."

That's the spirit, Francine! Don't keep track of what you've lost. Instead cherish what's left behind.

Nat evening

Cesar Montano is staying put on GMA 7. The Kapuso network is cooking up an action series and a game show a la "Singing Bee" for Bobby. That's only an end to rumors that he is moving to TV5.

He told me he wants to make more movies about our Filipino heroes for the youth. Aside from that, he still paints, composes songs, does gardening, goes on medical missions for the Pumpboy Children's Foundation, supervises his resto Balkonan and dotes on his kids and wife. How he manages to do all that makes him a man really here like the rest for pretenders.

Motherhood plans

Newlywed Bay Alonzo is passing motherhood plans on hold. "Bryan and I have agreed that we will have a baby after two years," she says. "We still have on our current first as we can save more for our kid's future and have more time to enjoy each other."

For now, the couple will bristle time on honeymoon mode.

So sweet

Rochelle Pangilinan and Yllegalberg Dimbo' create another lovebird. "We're so sweet during this Monday of Pork Rock Commonwealth (the building where it's located) is owned by Angel Locsin). "We kept our relationship hush-hush for quite some time," Rochelle said. "But we felt it's time we come out in the open." Love it, dancer it!

Dad's blessing

I asked the dad of Angel Locsin if he approves of **Phil Younghusband** for his daughter. "Kung sino mahipuan sa kanya ito, he replied. "Dahil si Phil. Very decent kid. Pulgong mo ngalo."

Angel's dad may be blind but he sees how he's head is taken care of Phil.

Black Eyed Peas

Marvin Agustin's Facebook tweet/declaration/announcement will bring to the smile-wrecked lip-lop group Black Eyed Peas on Oct. 25 at the Mall of Asia concert grounds. Twenty percent off on tickets for early birds. Kind aplikasyon, the Black Eyed Peas!

E-mail: wazzup@inquirer.com.ph

FRANCINE Prieto

MARVIN Agustin

SAY Alonzo

ROCHELLE Pangilinan

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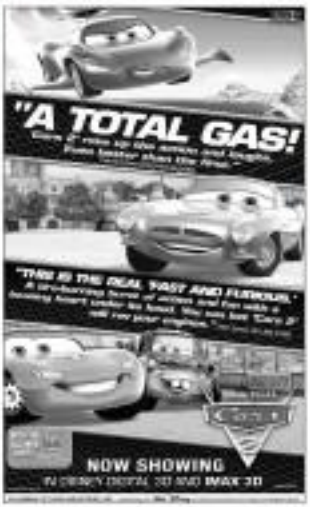
5 wedding movies with brains

"CORPSE Bride"

CARY Elwes and Robin Wright in "The Princess Bride"

JENI Seymour and Owen Wilson in "Wedding Crashers"



LOS ANGELES—There's no shortage of movies about weddings, and most of them are pretty lame.

They usually feature the most stereotypical depictions of women being neurotic, soggy messes or all of the above; they're crammed with corny slapstick, and they frequently culminate with a mad dash to an airport or train station for some breathless, last-moment declaration.

But not all wedding movies are steeped in the worst rom-com clichés. Some have brains and wit and even a bit of innovation. Here are five flicks about nuptials that will actually make you want to say "I do."

'The Philadelphia Story' (1940)

Pretty much the classic romantic comedy...or at least it has to feature prominently in any conversation about the best of the genre. The players are all to die-for of their game in George Cukor's Oscar winner, based on the Philip Barry play.

Katharine Hepburn is lively and radiant as socialite Tracy Lord, who's on the verge of marrying fiancé (as described by Cary Grant) and a magazine reporter (Jimmy Stewart) show up just before the ceremony, and all the classy plans go down in out of whack. It's an effervescent look at the affectations of high society, the very definition of snappy banter.

'The Princess Bride' (1987)

A screwball fairy tale with an excellent cast, clever details and great energy and heart. And it's easily one of the best films Rob Reiner has directed—up there with "This is Spinal Tap." Peter Falk reads his grandson to young Fred Savage) a story about princes, cursed lights, pirates, rats and, ultimately, true love.

The beautiful Buttercup (Robin Wright) is about to marry Prince Humperdinck (Chris Sarandon), whom she doesn't love. Her heart will belong to the feisty farm hand, whom she thinks is dead. But on the eve of her wedding, pirate (also Sarandon) has!

Billy Crystal, Carol Kane, Andre the Giant, Mandy Patinkin and Wallace Shawn all get classic lines, but Peter Cook as a clergyman with a speech impediment says the word "marriage" in a way that will cracks us up all these years later.

'Muriel's Wedding' (1994)

A little-known Toni Collette and Rachel Griffiths, both in their first major movie roles, have a delightful chemistry in this dysfunctional chariots about friendship and ABBA worship.

Collette stars as Muriel Heslop, a gawky, hopeless romantic who languishes in suburban misery and dreams of the day she'll walk down the aisle. Trouble is, she's never even had a date. Then she meets Griffiths' character, Rhonda, the firecracker who lifts her out of her doldrums and becomes her true true pal.

Writer-director P.J. Hogan's film is sweet, funny, heartbreaking and so very honest. (Three years later, Hogan would go on to make "My Best Friend's Wedding," which features several of the same ingredients we mentioned in the text.)

'Tim Burton's Corpse Bride' (2005)

A marriage of painstaking stop-motion animation and digital technology that's every inch a Tim Burton movie...sweet, ghoul, strange, poignant and unmistakably reflective of director's distinctive, darkly humorous style.

With an all-star voice cast led by Burton regulars Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham Carter, the film follows the romantic woes of a shy young man (Depp) between the surreal his parents have arranged for him to marry and the woman who rises from the land of the dead and accidentally becomes his wife.

The stop-motion feature's long time in development (Burton's Johnny admits just the right lively tone to such ghoulishly macabre material.

'Wedding Crashers' (2005)

In looking at marriage from the male perspective, this hilarious comedy comes from an inspired premise: Two guys crash weddings to pick up bridesmaids and partake in the free food and drink.

It's hard to resist the chemistry of Vince Vaughn and Owen Wilson, who bring a subversive energy to the movie that often makes it feel improvised. It's a complete blast to hear about the first hour, hour and a half, with a great cast (Rachel McAdams, Bradley Cooper, Christopher Walken, Isla Fisher), wickedly raunchy humor and pacing that leaves you breathless.

Pitch a cautionary tone just as the two hours, you may feel like you've stayed at the party a bit too long, but you'll still be glad you went.

TONI Collette and Rachel Griffiths in "Muriel's Wedding"

CARY Grant, Katharine Hepburn and Jimmy Stewart in "The Philadelphia Story"

Why Paolo Contis must be hardest-working Kapuso

By Rayzel Sol Ongo jr.

DASMARIÑAS CITY—Actor Pablo Contis could be the hardest-working GMA 7 star.

He juggles the nightly series "Dyesebelle" and the weekly game show "Manny Many Prizes." He enhanced the recently concluded kiddie talent search "I Heart" and regularly pinch-hits in the gag show "Bubble Gang"—that is, whenever host stars Ogie Alcasid and Michael V aren't around.

"I have no right to refuse any work that comes my way," he told the reporter, "especially when jobs are hard to come by these days."

Upside down

Also, becoming a dad to love baby girls Olivia, 2 years and 4 months old; Sofiya, 4 months) to quick succession has turned his world upside down, Pablo admitted. The reason is former PB Babe Lian Paz.

"My priorities have changed," Pablo explained. "I need to buy stuff only for myself. Now, I also buy for the kids, and I do that wholeheartedly. I'm always in a hurry to get home after work, so I can play with them."

The former "Bug TV" child star truly has grown up. He relaxed. "Recently, there was an earthquake. In the past, I wouldn't have given it much thought; I'd have just gone back to sleep. This time, I rushed to the babies' room to check on them. It has become second nature to me... to protect my family."

And work hard he does. Having set aside his "stress-on-Sunday" rule, he fast-frees up Sabad to game his current job's celebration of the province's Sanduguo festival.

Pablo said it was important for him to coach base with Bubblette fans of "Dyesebelle," a comic show to his heart because it allows him to share the screen with young castmates Bruce Roeland, Julian Trono and Yogo Singh. A farewell child, Pablo confessed that he relates well with the boys' travails.

And star Dayanara Santiago once called Pablo's attention because he (Pablo) had the habit of "teasing" the kids.

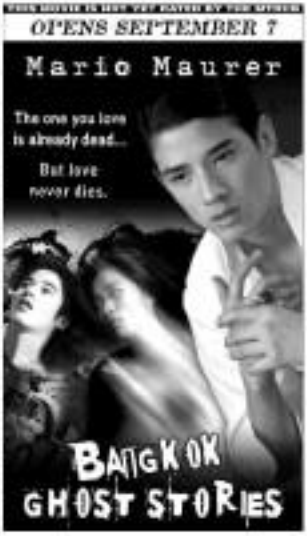
Contis friend, Pablo called this: "I went through that same experience with the cast when I started. I worked with [Mimi] Young, [Judy] Fernandez, Ge Estes, Rubalo and Aga Muhlach and it was nice to be a kid."

Passion

It's his turn to pass on not only the fun, but the love for the craft as well. "I hope to share with them the values I picked up through the years," he said. "Those kids are amazing; they're consummate professionals. They sit on cue and are quite mature. They summon to get acting on serious work."

Speaking of price, he considers himself fortunate to be "set home to by members" of Team Pinoyaker. "Manny works only with people he trusts," he noted. "He's sure I won't sabotage him, and that I will always do my job well. He's very sincere. He's the first to admit he's not a good host, but he's willing to learn. I'm here to join him on his boat sailing journey."

PAOLO Contis



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WEDDING TAYO, WEDDING HINDI
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MOVIE TIME

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1: ZOMBADINGS
2: CARS 2 (3D) / GRIP GOLD (3D)
3: BAD TEACHER
4: SHARK NIGHT
5: COLOMBIANA
6: WEDDING TAYO, WEDDING HINDI
7: FINAL DESTINATION 3
GREENBELT 1
1: COLOMBIANA
2: WEDDING TAYO, WEDDING HINDI
GREENBELT 3
1: CRAZY STUPID LOVE
2: BAD TEACHER
3: ONE DAY
4: CARS 2 (3D) / FINAL DESTINATION 3
5: COLOMBIANA
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1: COLOMBIANA
2: FINAL DESTINATION 3 (3D)
3: CARS 2 (3D)
4: WEDDING TAYO, WEDDING HINDI
5: BAD TEACHER
ASIA CENTER CEBU
1: BAD TEACHER
2: WEDDING TAYO, WEDDING HINDI
3: CRAZY STUPID LOVE
4: COLOMBIANA
MARKET!
1: BAD TEACHER
2: CARS 2 (3D) / FINAL DESTINATION 3
3: COLOMBIANA
4: WEDDING TAYO, WEDDING HINDI
MARKET! MARKET!
1: CARS 2 (3D)
2: BAD TEACHER
3: FINAL DESTINATION 3
4: FINAL DESTINATION 3 (3D)
5: COLOMBIANA
6: WEDDING TAYO, WEDDING HINDI
7: RESERVED
TRINOMA
1: ZOMBADINGS
2: BAD TEACHER
3: CARS 2 (3D) / GRIP GOLD (3D)
4: SHARK NIGHT (3D)
5: FINAL DESTINATION 3
6: COLOMBIANA
7: WEDDING TAYO, WEDDING HINDI
ABREEZA
1: CARS 2 (3D) / FINAL DESTINATION 3
2: BAD TEACHER
3: WEDDING TAYO, WEDDING HINDI
4: COLOMBIANA

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Drama Star wants to move to another station

A MOP will placed money glimpsed an office memo. Mole says the memo indicated that Drama Star wants out of Top Studio. "Her contract will end soon," Mole explains. "She plans to move to rival Station."

Seems the feeling is mutual. TS is unhappy with DS' lackluster performance of late. What makes our spy's blood boil is that DS is urging Noreen Flame to cross over with her.

Then again, all this could be part of the game plan of DS' handlers. Perhaps they just want to up DS' market value by sparking a bidding war.

Rupture of fire

Hunky Actor wrecked hard on a so-called bodymoorir, since it was going to be his big screen debut. Alas soon a pray, the producer has yet to pay HA—and it's a miniscule talent fee, for!

Voice acting

Gotta hand it to those Superb Actresses. Whenever her phone rings and she is not keen on chatting, SA 1 changes her voice, pretending to be the help. SA 2 has the same sassy spiel—you know, speaking in tongues.

The two are also passionately flighty and have been chided by peers for lack of professionalism.

Bullying underlings

Male upcomer Showbiz Insider is a tad bloodthirsty.

SI, in a foul mood, was berating an assistant. Eyewitness assured them was embarrassed for the poor assistant. Worse, it was a very petty matter and SI was just taking it out on her employee.

'Patayin sa Shoknet'

Screen Maniac is notorious for being sensitive and aggressive. He insists on getting his way and, unless he doesn't, he makes sure to make his displeasure known.

SV got involved in a minor traffic mishap. In his usual belligerent tone, SV screamed at the other motorist: "Don't you know who I am?" The man got out of his car, relieved SV and was about to shg him, but the crowd cold plooded, "Don't let him! I'm gay!"

As Remington would say: Awsome!

For Joseph

A benefit screening of "Liga ni O, Lapit na life" will be held tomorrow at the UP Film Center, 5 and 7 p.m.

FRIENDS are rushing to help Joseph Bitangcol.

Proceeds are earmarked for the medical expenses of actor Joseph Bitangcol, who figured in a car mishap recently. The indie film's distributor, Regal, has donated a sizable amount to aid Joseph's recovering too.

Top of the Talk Shows

For those who missed last weekend's TV gabfests (And why are you married, if we are married):

● After directors on helping raise money for friend Joseph Bitangcol's surgery: "Para pwedeo siyo ng wa bahi, eh. Kung may dapo lang sia long, dalong-dalo na."

Salmo Howard! see her love life: "My excitement at bahip ko ngayon!" (That's all there is to it.)

● Vicki Belo on the revelation of boyfriend Hayden Kho's medical license: "I am filled with sadness ... Being a doctor myself, I know how difficult the journey was—years of studying and endless sleepless nights on duty, not to mention the huge cost of a medical education that his parents sacrificed for." (Seems he forgot those, too.)

● Kuh ess Hellk on the subject: "Thankful naman po ako sa mga grave yung pinagdaanan ko. Dito 'di naman ding sabihin magpa-celebrate ako, o ... sasabihin ko siya ng 'Buti nga!' Wala naman yung ganon." (Haha!)

● Sarah Geronimo on the possibility of working with Superstar Nora Aunor: "Meron din ako! Hopefully soon! Aunor 'yun, eh! It's mga ...

● Bea Alonzo on Dawn Marsh: admitting one's ambitious that he's in love with her: "Ang sarap sa pakiramdam kasi parang siya ... Nakakabilib sa isang tao!" (Hey! friends-long ally.)

● Julia Montes! on her new successor: Anne Curtis. Heart Marvin. Agustin: "Sige pa ang pangit na pangit sa 'kin dati!" (If she says so herself.)

● Rochelle Ann Go, asked if she's entertaining suitors right now: "Ehko alam kung may mga pagsasamahan kasi dyaheng magaalas na nandiligan kung pa! wala namang pagpapanahon na ma pagsisip. Alam kong nagiging malisi lang 'yun nasi! Ayaking ligaw ngkalap. Bhrong nahohati pero dyaheng—sinasabi kan nga nadaraga na't bako ibosing-in-tenajoon." (Sounds like a no no.)

● Patrick Garcia on the possibility of getting back with ex Jennylyn Mercado: "We don't know the future. Basta sana ay na lang muna natin yung life." (Sounds like a ... maybe.)

(Gossip, E-Line, with Allan Policarpio, Cecile Bunoy)

CELEBS sported at Globe's recent BlackBerry PlayBook launch party included Miriam Quiambao (top), Marvin Agustin and Pia Magalona (above), Angelica Panganiban, Gab Valenciano and Isabelle Daza.

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REVIEW:

More touch delights coming from a 7-inch wonder tablet

'The new OS has a big future for RIM as it will eventually become the OS that RIM will consider using for future Blackberry phones'

By Raquel P. Serrano

GRAHAM BENJAMIN of Marion (BME), which lays claim to the invention of the smartphone, wrote shortly here that the company's BlackBerry OS has landed the No. 4 spot among the most widely used mobile operating systems in the world.

Unlike its Apple and Google (which come in- [illegible], RIM is also leveraging on an ecosystem of connected devices such as a smartphone product and a tablet product that support each other immensely through the sharing of apps and files and access to a single online market (BlackBerry AppWorld).

This [illegible] seems to be the perfect way to drive the proliferation of smart devices among consumers and push for faster net enjoyment on practically any smart device.

Recently, RIM introduced its Playbook, a 7-inch screen tablet that runs on BlackBerry Tablet OS (built totally from scratch for the new tablet) to [illegible].

Issues for RIM as it will eventually [illegible] become the OS that RIM will consider using for future BlackBerry phones, according to RIM vice president for South Asia Hastings Singh.

Powered by a dual-core mobile CPU, the BlackBerry Playbook supports built Adobe Flash and HTML5, and features full 1080p HD video recording. In addition, BlackBerry Playbook features an 10MB video output and compression technology for smooth and faster operations of graphics heavy applications. It also boasts of either 32/220 or 16/108 internal storage and comes either in Wi-Fi only versions or Wi-Fi and 3G versions.

The one we have in review is a Playbook 32 GB Wi-Fi version.

Unlike its rivals, the Playbook doesn't feature Back, Home, Last hardware buttons as these functions are already done on-screen through a host of gestures, such as pull up or pull down of the screen (like pulling a curtain) combined with tapping the "x" at the bottom of the screen to exit from applications.

Multi-tasking, an integral function app, which covers the entire screen, can be closed by pulling up the screen from below. The gesture will minimize the YouTube screen; from there, one can just tap the tiny "x" symbol below the minimized screen. The gesture of pulling up will also allow the user to go to the Home Screen.

Some applications, particularly in the settings, feature "Back" and "Cancel" buttons that can be tapped to exit or back to the Home Screen. The Home Screen, which is filled with widgets/apps that are arranged neatly on a grid, can be swiped upward down or onwards the left and the right.

Similar to the other entries, the Playbook has an accelerometer function for the automatic rotation of the contents of the screen once turned sideways. But it has an additional orientation lock feature that allows the user to lock the screen to a particular orientation. This is very useful when reading a document.

Internet via 3G can be shared on the Playbook by using the "Tethering feature, which functions as a browser through Bluetooth connection. But the user can also access the BlackBerry Bridge app on the web browser of a paired BlackBerry smartphone, as well as access the phone's mail, calendar, contacts, and tasks as well as.

Connecting the two BlackBerries can be done through scanning of a barcode by the BlackBerry phone on the screen of the Playbook, or by manually inputting the required codes on the phone.

Though it takes time to get used to the gesture commands, the Playbook is a powerful tablet capable of multitasking and fast Internet connectivity. It has work applications and entertainment applications. It's not too big and not too small. Pitching alongside a BlackBerry smartphone for communication, the Playbook is the perfect sized tablet to help you organize your day and be entertained as well.

For a video review, go to www.techdirdy.wordpress.com

GALAXY TAB 10.1

The ultimate mobile entertainment tablet

POWERED BY the new generation Android 3.1, the new Samsung Galaxy Tab 10.1 provides an unrivaled mobile entertainment experience, whether playing games, reading e-books, watching movies, or updating your Facebook status.

A 3G- and Wi-Fi enabled device, the Samsung Galaxy Tab features a 10.1-inch (WXGA TFT LCD) display with crystal clear resolution (1280 x 800). The upgraded screen makes Samsung Galaxy Tab 10.1 a superior device for experiencing your collection of movies and photos, and the thousands of games and applications available from the Android Market, all of which can be stored in the built in 16GB.

There's also an 3-megapixel rear facing camera and a 2-megapixel front-facing camera, both of which allows for seamless full HD (1080p) video recording and playback, as well as dual-surround sound speakers that provides an even more immersive media experience.

It is pre-loaded with Readers Hub that offers instant access to more than 3.3 million books, 2,000 newspaper 189 languages), 1,700 magazines (22 languages), and 13 million songs. The device also includes Samsung's Social Hub that aggregates e-mail, instant messaging, contacts, calendar, and social network connections into a single interface for easy access and organization.

It is also equipped with the latest version of Android's tablet-optimized operating system, Honeycomb, and a 1GHz Dual Core application processor for fast multimedia and web browsing experience.

Complementing the Honeycomb OS is the Samsung TouchWiz UI, which features the Live Panel menu that allows users to customize homescreen with digital pictures, favorite Web sites, and social network feeds.

In addition, the Samsung Galaxy Tab supports Adobe Flash 10.2, letting you access and interact with thousands of websites with complex Flash-based applications and content.

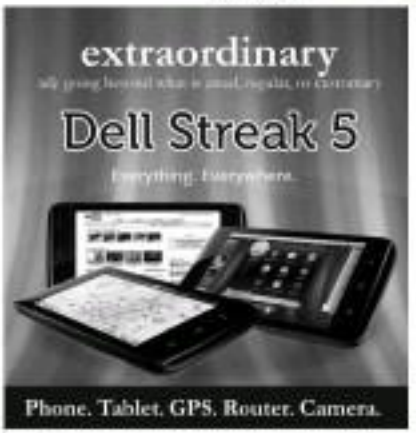
TECH TRENDS

New Toshiba laptop gets premium looks

A must-have business communication tool

Portable media player for travellers

Affordable Android Gingerbread smartphone



HTC Wildfire S, the compact smartphone

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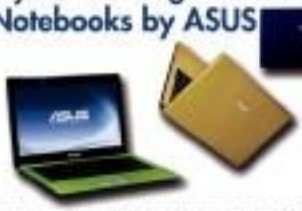
Stylish Redesigned K Series Notebooks by ASUS



For consumers interested in a classic notebook look, new K Series models present a solid balance of design and performance. Available in passion red, urban green, chill blue, party gold and seduction pink, K Series features highly durable aluminum texture covers that offer a personal touch and a unique look while at the same time conveying a business-like but nonetheless stylish attitude. The inclusion of exclusive ASUS IceCool technology promises users with an extra comfortable typing experience, as palm rests remain cool at all times while the ASUS Rain Proof technology-equipped touchpad distinguishes between the contact surfaces of the palm and fingers to prevent inadvertent cursor movements during typing. K Series notebooks priced at **P27,995; P30,995** with Genuine Windows 7 Home Basic. Available in all Asus Concept Stores and authorized dealers.

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Canon PIXMA No. 1 for 1st half of 2011

CANON PIXMA proved to consistently be the No. 1 inkjet printer choice for the first half of 2011, said the International Data Corporation (IDC).

IDC, a research company that specializes in technology monitoring, said in numbers, retail sales for the period, apart from dominating the inkjet printer category sold at 25 percent market share, Canon PIXMA also led the single function printer category with nearly sufficient IO percent market share. It said Canon PIXMA also got a large share of 26 percent in the multifunction inkjet printer segment.

"We are truly grateful to consumers for choosing Canon PIXMA. We work very hard to delight the customer, from print quality to affordable ink purchase and after-sale process, all the way to post-sales by offering excellent service and three years warranty. It felt to be no lucky. Agatha Van Alto, the quality of Canon PIXMA is truly unparalleled as even our entry level printers can print crisp, realistic photos and documents at very competitive running costs," said Ali Santiago, Consumer Systems Product Marketing manager of Canon Marketing Philippines, Inc.

"Of course, being a leader in the digital imaging industry, we are also very proud of our Pro and Photo printers which offer high resolution prints at 9600dpi and output performance such as the 10 minute photo which one can print out within 10 minutes take out photos and DSLR cameras," Santiago added.

According to Santiago, added value features like the Easy-Scroll Wheel and Auto Duplex Printing are also some of the features consumers look for in a printer. This was no surprise for students who want to make a good impression. Apart from this, features such as PIP (connectivity, direct-CD label print, and direct photo print options boosted sales for mid-range models.

The Canon PIXMA iP 2770 was the top-selling single function printer in the market for the first half of 2011 because of its affordability (P1,195), reliability and print quality. The PIXMA iP2770 and PIXMA MP258 All-in-One Printer (P3,395) were also among the top selling products for the first half of 2011.

Canon PIXMA printers are known for superior print quality. They are equipped with the original easy-PIM technology which allows users to print photos with the highest quality at the fastest speed. Furthermore, Canon PIXMA printers come with the patented Chromalife 100+ technology that is industry first photo printing certified that lasts up to 200 years.

Apart from these, all Canon PIXMA printers come with useful user-friendly features such as the Easy-Photo Print which allows users to easily make photo albums and other creative applications. Consumers also have access to the Creative Park Premium, a website in which Canon PIXMA users can download quality free photos, greeting card and other paper crafts for free.

In order to further delight consumers and make it easier for customers to purchase Canon PIXMA printers, Canon Marketing Philippines launched the Canon PIXMA Online Store (www.store.canon.com.ph/pixmaonline.html) so that Canon PIXMA users can enjoy the convenience of making purchases online.

For more information on Canon PIXMA, please visit www.canon.com.ph or call (+632)864-6666.

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Only the buttons or features you need are activated!

Intel's 'Digital Showdown' winners

INTEL Phil announced the grand prize winners of "Digital Showdown," a short film-making contest for Filipino home-based entrepreneurs. Jay Aldo Jamisolin won the first prize for his work titled "Chromosome," Patrick Gilmore Uy won for his work "Rapping Today," and Gary Stephen Ilas Cruz won for his work "Marvin Digital Pilo Ed." The Digital Showdown contest ran for four months and its goal was to tap into the Filipino's creativity and fondness for creating and sharing videos on social networking sites.

With film directors Mr. Brown and Quark Henares giving film-making expert advice on Facebook, contest participants were challenged to create a 30-second, 60-second, or 90-second video illustrating how the PC makes an impact on their lives.

Video movies were uploaded on Facebook after which 10 finalists were shortlisted by a judging panel appointed by the local Intel team. Intel page fans were then given the chance to vote for the short-listed finalists.

"The focus of the contest is to encourage the creative spirit of aspiring Filipino filmmakers as technology continues to drive creativity among the young people today. They're the ones who constantly upload digital content on the web and the PC empowers them to do that," said Nelsy Batang, Intel's country manager.

Three reasons why you should buy a high zoom camera

In today's wide roster of digital cameras which boasts of numerous features, a savvy consumer should be equipped with ample knowledge to be able to buy the best option.

1. Amidst all the technological features, the optical zoom function is one to be greatly considered. Most models have at least 3x optical zoom which is okay for usual shots of yourself, your friends or your events. But if you're into zooming in on concerts, fashion shows or landmarks, a camera with a more powerful zoom like 10x or higher is the one for you. High zoom cameras provide users with beautiful and clear photos even if the subject is far; image quality is not compromised.

2. Cameraheaus, a trusted name and official dealer of different brands of cameras, carries a wide range of high zoom models per brand. With over 20 branches nationwide, you have easy access to certified original products at reasonable prices.

3. Zoom your way to Hongkong Disneyland. Cameraheaus gives you the chance to win a trip to Hongkong and tour Disneyland with every purchase of any high zoom camera. Other prizes at stake are 32" LCD TV and a gift certificate from Bright Smile professional teeth whitening worth P15,000.00.

Visit a Cameraheaus branch near you or check www.cameraheaus.com for more details.

New ASRock motherboard to revolutionize PCs

MOTHERBOARD MAKER ASRock unveils its new PCIe Gen3 motherboard series, a next generation motherboard that will be the first to work with PCI Express 3.0 specification.

As a PCI Express 3.0 capable motherboard, the new ASRock motherboard offers more bandwidth to enable faster communication between components inside a desktop's system.

"ASRock is prioritizing PCIe 3.0 motherboard implementation. We are the first to produce the most sophisticated PCIe Gen3 motherboards," said James Lee, VP of ASRock international marketing.

The new motherboard features a latest PCIe 3.0 quick switch IC that allows users to enjoy the benefits of a PCIe 3.0 brand on their PC by installing the PCIe 3.0 VGA card with its specifications by bridge IDs.

The new motherboards include the Z68 Extreme7 Gen3, which has ASRock's innovative features and the ultimate hardware enhancements in order advanced users such as hardcore gamers.

The full-size ATX board comes with 2 PCIE 3.0 x16 and 4 PCIE2.0x16, and supports 4-Way SLI and 4-Way CrossFireX. With Nvidia NF200 chip onboard, the Z68 Extreme7 Gen3 is capable of running dual VGA cards at PCI-E x16 / x16 mode and three VGA cards at x16 / x8 / x8 mode for maximum graphics performance.

Equipped with Premium Gold Caps and advanced 60+1 Power Phase Design, Z68 Extreme7 Gen3 performs hardcore stability. It supports 2nd Generation Intel Core i7 / i5 / i3 / Pentium / Celeron Package, Quad channel DDR3 2133+ memory, Intel HD graphics with Built-in Visuals, 6 6Gb 3.0, 10USB3.0 and 7 SATA3. The onboard VGA outputs include D-Sub, DVI-I, HDMI and display ports as well. Other ASRock exclusive features include XFast USB Technology, graphical UEFI BIOS, all-in-one ASUS tuning program and the support for 7.1 CH HD audio with TSX Technology.

Message

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TourismMalaysia

WHEN THE DAY ENDS, EXCITEMENT BEGINS.

TO KNOW Malaysia is to love Malaysia—a bubbling, bustling melting pot of races and religions where Malays, Indians, Chinese and many other ethnic groups live together in peace and harmony.

Multicultural allure has not only made Malaysia a gastronomical paradise, it has also made Malaysia home to hundreds of colorful festivals. It's no wonder that we love celebrating and socializing. As a people, Malaysians are very laid back, warm and friendly.

Geographically, Malaysia is as diverse as its culture. Malaysia is divided into 13 states and three federal territories, separated by the South China Sea with 11 states and two federal territories (Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya) in Peninsular Malaysia and two states and one federal territory (Labuan) in East Malaysia.

One of Malaysia's key attractions is its extreme contrasts. Towering skyscrapers look down upon wooden houses built on stilts, and five-star hotels sit several meters away from ancient reefs. Cool hideaways are found in the highlands that roll down to warm, sandy beaches and rich, humid mangroves.

For the perfect holiday full of surprises, eclectic cultures and natural wonders, the time is now, the place is Malaysia.

Happy 55th Independence Day Malaysia

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Experience the wonders of Merdeka with us!

AirAsia Chief Executive Officer Muan Kamdemens presents a replica of an Air Asia jet to Tourism Secretary Alberto Lina as Air Asia chair Tony Boy Cuisingco, Air Asia vice chair Mikhail Romero, Board Commission Development Authority chair Felix de Pagsisan and other airline officials look on.

MALAYSIA, a bustling city bursting at the seams with shopping, nightlife, art and even old world culture stirred into a melting pot of infinite wonder. Following its motto "Bersatulah Bertambah Mutu (Unity is Strength)," the country has done nothing but that; but instead of evolving into a robotic modern country, it blooms as a metropolis deeply rooted in traditions and culture.

With the capital growing at a rapid rate, culture actually gets lost in the process. Somehow with every sky scraper built there will be at least one new art, handicraft or food center within the modern structure that is dedicated in upholding the culture.

In every state there is always something new and unique to be found. From big name brands to intricate hand carvings, you practically can discover incredible finds wherever you go. As the country is big on nature, the best beaches in Malaysia are on beautiful tropical islands that are everywhere. Immerse yourself in the cool turquoise ocean and witness all sizes of fishes swimming through the corals in the warm tropical currents.

The best attraction Malaysia has to offer is all the Malaysian cuisine that you had never even thought about—from the mild Chinese to the full-flavored Malay fare, to the beautifully spiced Indian cuisines and the exotic ethnic delicacies. Don't just take our word for it, Malaysian cuisine has been known and named far and wide by many travel guides and travellers alike.

Ariel AirAsia Group has been the preferred airline for travellers worldwide. This year, the airline plans to extend its reach with AirAsia Philippines. This 10th year for AirAsia Group and 54th Merdeka (Malaysia Independence Day) is going to be big for the group as this is the year it will provide more routes that will spread throughout the Philippine archipelago. This will not only increase tourism in the Philippines but also provide a more convenient way for locals to travel to over 75 destinations worldwide.

Even as of now, we see locals taking short flights to Kota Kinabalu for the magnificent green Borneo experience and Kuala Lumpur for the cityscapes. For those wanting more, travellers will want continue on to the warm beaches of Kuala Terengganu, Langkawi, Penang and many other Malaysian beaches. With flights departing daily from Clark to these wonderful places, the options for dream holidays are endless.

This dream is exactly what AirAsia Philippines wants to help you achieve. So look out for something special and exciting that'll be coming to you soon. Follow facebook.com/AirAsiaPhilippines to get the latest updates and greatest deals.

With AirAsia, everyone can fly.

AirAsia Chief Executive Officer Muan Kamdemens

GOVERNMENT TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME (GTP)

Transforming Malaysia

MALAYSIA HAS often taken the road less travelled and pragmatically charted its own course. Now, the nation is embarking on the same route once again with bold transformation programs that no other government in the world has attempted to undertake on that scale.

The Government Transformation Programme (GTP) was devised to accelerate the aspirations of 1Malaysia, People First, Performance Now. In its entirety, the GTP is designed to provide all Malaysians access to improved public services irrespective of race, religion and region.

The objectives of GTP is two-fold: first, to transform the government to be more effective in its delivery of services and accountable for outcomes that matter most to the Rakyat; and second, to move Malaysia forward to become a developed, united, and just society with high standards of living by all. This it is done with the national mission of achieving Vision 2020—for Malaysia to become a fully developed nation.

Under the GTP, six key priority areas have been identified where challenges within each area have been divided into short-term priorities and long-term issues. These areas of development are known as the National Key Results Areas (NKRAs) to achieve:

- Reducing Crime
- Fighting Corruption
- Improving Student Outcomes
- Raising Living Standards of Low-Income Households
- Improving Rural Basic Infrastructure
- Improving Urban Public Transport

It is understood that the same approach as before to transform the government and achieve substantial results quickly cannot always be used. Therefore, to ensure a consistent gauge and sense of what priority areas are for the people, multiple input sources including people, opinion polls, perception surveys, alternative and mainstream media analysis, and dialogues with select academics, private and public sector leaders were considered.

Inevitably, it is no walk in the park and along the way there will be setbacks, missed targets, misjudged initiatives, swollen stakeholders and those unwilling to adhere or adapt to the necessary changes. However, it is vital that all hands to the end goal of Vision 2020 and a better life as a developed nation is in mind, and has the upcoming challenges before reaping the benefits.

With the GTP Roadmap, we are ensuring transparency by outlining our objectives, concrete targets and initiatives. We expect to be held accountable for delivering targets. We announced and we will publish a progress report on an annual basis starting in the first quarter of 2012 so that our achievements can be evaluated over time.

Big results fast: Introducing the transformation

Malaysia is at a crossroads. In 1991, the nation committed itself to Vision 2020 to become a fully developed nation by 2020. While there has been progress, at the current rate of growth, the nation is in danger of losing its competitiveness and falling short of its economic and social ambitions. A fundamental change is required, not just in economic and social performance, but also in the delivery of public goods and services that underpin the ability to develop the country. To meet the challenges standing in the way of achieving Vision 2020, the nation has committed itself to a Government Transformation Programme (GTP) in accordance with the principles of 1Malaysia, People First, Performance Now.

Challenges to realizing Vision 2020

With Vision 2020, the country is committed to nine goals: encompassing economic, political, social, spiritual, psychological and cultural dimensions of growth. Collectively, these made be core of challenging targets for Malaysia. Under the guidance of past and present leaders, and through the hard work of the people, there has been considerable progress on the journey towards 2020.

Despite achievements, it will still be challenging to fulfil the 2020 aspirations. Economically and socially, Malaysia's performance has fallen behind and needs to be improved.

Catalysing Vision 2020 through 1 Malaysia, People First, Performance Now

To accelerate our performance in order to achieve Vision 2020, the GTP has been formulated based on the principles of 1 Malaysia, People First, Performance Now. The initiatives implemented under the GTP will reduce the disparities between the rich and poor as well as between urban and rural, thus helping achieve the ideals of 1 Malaysia. In developing the GTP and selecting the National Key Results Areas (NKRAs), the people's priorities are first and foremost will even extensively be sought to improve the program from the people. To ensure Performance Now, mechanisms have been put in place to give high-level attention of delivery.

Building 1 Malaysia

Creating unity within a multi-religious and racial-cultural nation is challenging. Malaysia has chosen a unique route—that of unity in diversity—and to do it in ways which encourage harmony in all. As chairman of the Commission, this concept means that Malaysians embrace a diversity of ethnicity, religion and beliefs and, by being inclusive, build mutual respect and acceptance into a solid foundation of trust and achievements. This has historically been the path that has been taken in a unique and home-encapsulated by the principle of 1 Malaysia.

The goal of 1 Malaysia is to make Malaysia more relevant, more productive and more competitive, and ultimately a greater nation; a nation where, it is hoped, every Malaysian perceives himself or herself as Malaysian first, and the race, religion, geographical region or socio-economic background second and where the principles of 1 Malaysia are embedded into the economic, political and social fabric of society.

The New Economic Policy (NEM), the Economic Tranformation Programme (ETP) and the Strategic Reform Initiatives (SRIs)

What is the NEM?

The New Economic Model (NEM) was launched by the Prime Minister of Malaysia on 30 March 2010 to transform the Malaysian economy into one with high income and quality growth by the year 2020. The NEM has three goals: high income, sustainability and inclusiveness.

Goals of the NEM

To achieve the main goals of the NEM, Malaysia can no longer rely only spending its wealth from oil and resources, which is unsustainable. We can no longer only focus things to market forces and ignore the need for government assistance.

The NEM takes a holistic approach by focusing on human development, recognizing that while we have substantially reduced poverty, 40 percent of Malaysian households still earn less than RM3,000 a month. Income disparity needs to be addressed and measures are needed to improve the economic well-being of the poor, especially those in Sabah, Sarawak and rural areas of the peninsula.

The NEM will create a Malaysia where no groups will be marginalized, and the essential needs of the people will be satisfied. They will live, work and study in localities free from the fear of crime, indiscrimination, and anxiety of need.

Why do we need the NEM?

Malaysia's economy over the years has slowed down and the pace of its economic growth has weakened. Short-comings are preventing the nation from getting out of the middle income trap, and growth has spiral downward if nothing is done.

Private investors find that cumbersome procedures in doing business and the presence of rising problems. Productivity is not growing fast enough and Malaysia still lacks creativity and innovation.

The human capital situation is reaching a critical stage... our unemployment is being downplayed and the true level of wages is low. We have been unable to see skilled labor flee the land as our industries and employers have to rely increasingly on unskilled foreign workers.

The gap between rich and poor is widening. The New Economic Policy (NEP) has reduced poverty and substantially addressed issues related to economic imbalances. However, its implementation has lost its way and has created new problems, paving the way for unproductive rent-seeking, patronage and opaque government practices.

Malaysia thus urgently needs a New Economic Model (NEM) with a fresh approach to its approach towards economic development which will enable the nation to reach a high income status, within reach of everyone in the country and sustainable over a long period of time.

What is the ETP?

The only way this can happen is with a big push of policies that is not big but also than a major one-lined, incremental reforms here and there just will not work. The NEM will be the catalyst to unleash Malaysia's growth potential.

Is the NEM achievable?

The short answer is a definite yes. While Malaysia faces daunting challenges, it also has many strengths and unique advantages on its disadvantages for itself. Malaysia is not poor but rather strategically located in a high growth region. The country has good infrastructure, a well-established manufacturing base and a young and resourceful workforce.

For the NEM to succeed, there must be political will to break the logjam of vested interests. Political and intellectual leadership must prepare the people to support deep-seated changes in policy directions.

What is the ETP?

The Economic Transformation Programme (ETP) is a comprehensive effort that will transform Malaysia into a high income nation by 2020.

Successfully implemented, the ETP will more than double Malaysia's gross national income (GNI) per capita to over US$15,000 or RM48,000 in 2020, making the country a high income economy.

The ETP involves two integrated components represented by the eight Strategic Reform Initiatives (SRIs) and the 12 National Key Economic Areas (NKEAs). The SRIs are transformational policy measures and seek to remove structural barriers to growth and address chronic weaknesses in the economy. Only when these shortcomings are addressed will Malaysia be able to successfully take on the NKEAs launched by the government at the end of October 2010, to achieve the ultimate objectives of high income, inclusiveness and sustainability.

What are SRIs?

The eight Strategic Reform Initiatives (SRIs) are at the core of the Economic Transformation Programme (ETP). Within the SRIs, the NEM has recommended a series of transformational policy measures (see enhancers). The eight SRIs are:

SRI 1: Re-energizing the private sector to lead growth. Fixing up the private sector through deregulation, liberalization and effective enforcement of the competition law, in line with international standards, will stimulate synergies to investment in high value added products and services, generating substantial growth and high income.

SRI 2: Developing quality workforce and reducing dependency on foreign labor. Imperative to overachieve to share out their best requires better education and skill training programs. The focus is on generating a trained workforce to meet the needs of knowledge economy. Labor market distortions that hamper wage growth, such as remedies of foreign labour, will be removed.

SRI 3: Creating a competitive domestic economy. Malaysians will enjoy the benefits of vibrant competition and private initiative in the absence of market distortions that lead to misallocation of resources. Subsidies and price controls will be phased out gradually. The impact on the vulnerable groups will be cushioned with assistance and not subsidy use.

SRI 4: Strengthening the public sector, it is more and customer-focused government will improve delivery of public services. Sound public finance is essential for safeguarding macroeconomic stability and enhancing the future prospects of the people.

SRI 5: Transparent and market-friendly affirmative action. Affirmative action programs will help the bottom 40 percent of households to participate in the economy and will be renewed on capacity building. Targeted programmes for certain groups outside of the bottom 40 percent, particularly small and medium enterprises (SMEs) within the Bumiputera Commercial and Industrial Community (BCIC), must be market-friendly, transparent, needs- and merit-based in order to foster true wealth creation and not rent-seeking.

SRI 6: Building the knowledge base infrastructure. Recognizing that entrepreneurship and innovation are not going to emerge on their own, the key drivers have to represent an environment and economy be innovation by strengthening the delivery of high quality education that encourages innovation and technology.

SRI 7: Enhance the sources of growth that new will leverage its natural endowments and sources of comparative advantage in the main sources of high value added growth, maximizing spillover effects to create areas of activities.

SRI 8: Ensure sustainability of growth. Preserving our natural resources and striving for sustainable public finances through stringent fiscal discipline will safeguard the interest of future generations.

What are the next steps?

The NEAC, as an independent advisory body, has performed a mix of high level and detailed recommended policy measures in line with the NKEAs mapped out. The government has made PEMANDU the central agency tasked with coordinating the further design of policy measures, monitoring their implementation, and assessing their effectiveness for the purpose of suggesting any necessary remedial measures.

Between January and April 2011, PEMANDU worked with the NEAC on the implementation details, sequencing and the time line of the policy measures under bring the eight SRIs. Many of these policy measures are also being integrated into the on-going policy initiatives encompassed by the Government Transformation Programme (GTP) and NKEAs. The government has pledged to implement progressively the policies envisaged in the NEM. This will be a long haul process involving all stakeholders.

The NEAC has recommended that there be an independent Evaluation Board (EB) whose main task will be to undertake every two years an in-depth strategic review of the impact and relevance of the policy measures underlying the SRIs and driving the NEAC.

CEB doubles fleet again with new $3.8B airbus deal

THE PHILIPPINE budget carrier, Cebu Pacific (PSE:CEB) can accommodate nearly their it has ordered 30 new Airbus A321neos and seven A320 aircraft. The order at the price at a valuation at approximately $3.8 billion, the largest single aircraft order ever made by a Philippine carrier.

CEB earned this time orders in connection to options for seven Airbus A320 aircraft, and has placed conversion orders for 30 A321neo (New Engine Option) aircraft with options for a further 30 A321neos. The A321neos will be a first of its type to operate in the Philippines, being a larger and longer-haul version of the familiar Airbus A320.

The said orders for A320 and A321neo aircraft will be delivered between 2015 and 2021. These are on top of firm orders for 14 Airbus A320 aircraft to be delivered from the second half of 2011 until 2014. The successful Cebu Pacific's total firm order of Airbus aircraft to 51.

Cebu Pacific has made the largest firm orders for the Airbus A321neo aircraft in the world. These 220-seater aircraft will be a real game changer for Cebu Pacific because the A321neos will have a much longer range. We will be able to serve cities in Australia, India and northern Japan, given the A320 cannot reach," said CEB CEO and president Lance Gokongwei.

"The aircraft will reduce our unit cost per seat to a level that cannot be achieved flying A320s. This means that Cebu Pacific will be able to offer even lower fares to our guests and be much more competitive with any one flying in a cost efficient aircraft. This will allow us to create highly skilled, highly paid jobs for our Filipino pilots, cabin crew and airline staff," added Gokongwei.

Cebu Pacific currently utilizes 25 brand-new aircraft, all of which are from the Airbus A320 family and eight ATR turbo-prop aircraft. By 2013, CEB will more than double its fleet and triple its capacity.

John Leahy, Airbus Chief Operating Officer, Customers, said, "With the A321neo, Cebu Pacific will be able to fly more people farther or significantly lower cost per seat than any other competing aircraft, and with less impact on the environment."

The A321neo is the largest model in the newly launched A320neo series. It most passive new engines and large wing up devices called sharklets, allowing CEB to achieve 15 percent reduced fuel burn, and therefore an efficient operating cost.

The new engine types offered on the A320neo are CFM International's LEAP-X and Pratt & Whitney's PurePower PW1100G. Cebu Pacific has not made an engine choice at this time.

Since its inception in 1996, the Philippines' low-fare pioneer, CEB, had already flown 50 million passengers and counting. It broke four million passengers in 2010 and is on track to reach a total of 10 million passengers by the end of 2011, carrying more than one million passengers per month.

The new A320 will carry more than 12 million passengers. It achieves a post-tax after growth of 10 percent in 2010.

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Malaysia Airlines (www.malaysiaairlines.com), the national carrier of Malaysia and one of Asia's largest, flies nearly 45,000 passengers daily to some 100 destinations worldwide across 6 continents. The distinctive Malaysia Airlines brand is an extension of the special culture of warmth and friendliness unique to Malaysians. This inimitable Malaysian sense of graciousness is branded as "Malaysian Hospitality" and symbolized by the acronym MH which is also the airline's flight code.

Since October 2,1974, Malaysia Airlines has served Manila, offering 37 years of Malaysian Hospitality for passengers flying this route. The year 2010 marked the significant commitment of Malaysia Airlines' services to Manila when it started double daily services.

Halal Industry Development Corporation

HALAL It is surely a way of life—it is a global industry. Within under in commercial sectors worldwide, Halal Development has become a significant contributor to all facets of economic growth.

Established on 13 September 2006, Halal Industry Development Corporation (HDC) usually under the overall development of the Halal industry in Malaysia. Focusing on development of Halal standards, audit and certification, plus capacity building for Halal products and services, HDC promotes and implements facilitates growth of Malaysian companies in the global Halal market.

Intent on building a global Halal community, HDC brings the Malaysian Halal industry in unison toward a common goal. By nurturing growth and participation of local businesses into the global Halal market, HDC serves as hub for Halal best practices in Malaysia to maximize the development of Halal products globally.

Through its experience, knowledge and expertise, HDC is the gateway towards a better understanding of Halal for all.

Roles and Responsibilities

HDC is Malaysia's response to the international now building up worldwide, for better quality products and services as consumers gain confidence in the Halal process. It will provide manufacturers, distributors, retailers, entrepreneurs, researchers and investors all the necessary assistance to penetrate the global Halal market through the adoption of the Malaysian experience and expertise in food and non-food sectors. The roles and responsibilities of HDC are three:

- To lead the development of Halal standards, audit and certification procedures in order to protect the integrity of Halal
- To direct and coordinate the development of Malaysian Halal industry amongst all stake holders, both public and private
- To manage capacity building for Halal producers and related service providers
- To support investment into Malaysia's Halal industry
- To facilitate the growth and participation of Malaysian companies in the global Halal market
- To develop, promote and market the Malaysian Halal brand
- To promote the concept of Halal and related goods and services

Tourism Malaysia entices Filipino travelers with Tara na sa Malaysia Travel Fair 2011

TOURISM MALAYSIA recently held the second "Tara na sa Malaysia!" travel fair participated in by several state tourism boards, partner airlines and travel agencies offering stunning deals and packages created especially for Filipino travelers.

The travel fair, which ran from July 15-17, 2011, presented several high-spirited cultural performances, food demonstrations, as well as affordable packages of tours and other activities and games.

"The "Tara na sa Malaysia!" travel fair is more than just to showcase what Malaysia has in store for visitors from all over the world. Through this, we are personally inviting all Filipinos to come and visit Malaysia and explore its cultural wonders, take part in colorful festivals, indulge in authentic Malay cuisine and experience a country that's truly Asian," said His Excellency Dato Seri Dr. Ibrahim Saad, Ambassador of Malaysia to the Philippines.

With the help of its partner travel agencies, Tourism Malaysia also created and introduced the 2011 Malaysia Kick the Package brochure to further encourage Filipinos to visit Malaysia and experience all its wonders. Valid for travel until December 31, 2011, the packages include land arrangements to four new destinations such as Kuala Lumpur, Langkawi, Kota Kinabalu, Penang, Malacca, Penang, various exciting theme parks, and the upcoming Malaysia Hi-tech.

Present during the opening ceremony were (from left) Iris Subramaniam, director of Amanresorts Bukit Kiara; Organizers Engr. Mary Therese Lapena, mall manager of SM Mall of Asia; Wedda Ko, regional operations manager, PM Media; YB Datuk Dr. Hj. Ibrahim Bt Mohamed Khalil, Kedah State executive councilor; His Excellency Dato Seri Dr. Ibrahim Saad, Ambassador of Malaysia to the Philippines; YB Mardzuraw, Kedah State executive councilor for Tourism; and Rhenna Mohd Rokis, director, Tourism Malaysia - Philippines.

For more information about Malaysia, visit www.tourism-malaysia.com.ph or log and connect with us on facebook by liking the "Tara na sa Malaysia" Facebook page.

Tan Sri Proserpina with a colorful dance performance

Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE) and Malaysian Industrial Development Authority (MIDA)

MATRADE

MATRADE'S MISSION To promote Malaysia's export base enabled many local companies to venture new frontiers in global markets. Today as we continue to put the spotlight on capable Malaysian companies on the international stage, we are helping make the phrase Made in Malaysia' synonymous with excellence, reliability and trustworthiness.

MATRADE's mission is to promote Malaysia's enterprises to the world

Picture:
Positioning Malaysia as a globally competitive trading nation

Mission:
Promoting Malaysia's enterprises to the world

MATRADE's mission is to develop and promote Malaysia's export to the world and to harmonise trade:

- To promote, assist and develop Malaysia's external trade with particular emphasis on the export of manufactured and semi-manufactured products and, as a subsidiary basis, imports;
- To formulate and implement a national export and trading strategy to promote the export of manufactured and semi-manufactured products;
- To undertake commercial intelligence and market research and create a comprehensive database of information for the improvement and development of trade;
- To organise training programs to improve the international marketing skills of the Malaysian exporters;
- To enhance and protect Malaysia's interests in trade matters abroad;
- To represent Malaysia in any international forum in respect of any matter relating to trade;
- To develop, promote, facilitate and assist in service areas related to trade; and
- To advise the government on matters affecting or in any way connected with trade and to act as the agent of the government or be any person, body or organisation on such matters.

MATRADE's objectives are:

- To raise the profile of Malaysian exporters in foreign markets;
- To disseminate timely and relevant information and market intelligence to help Malaysian companies gain a competitive edge in foreign markets;
- To introduce Malaysian companies to foreign importers seeking Malaysian suppliers; and
- To undertake activities to promote the export of Malaysian goods and services to overseas markets.

MATRADE is also actively involved in assisting foreign companies to source for suppliers of Malaysian products and services, and to implement worldwide or All Countries in single terminal sites. In Malaysia, MATRADE has five (5) branches in Penang, Terengganu, Johor, Sabah, and Sarawak.

Core Services

MATRADE has initiated several programs to assist Malaysian companies to equip themselves with knowledge and skills.

Exporter Development

The international market is highly sophisticated and competitive arena. In order to thrive in this market, exporters need to meet international standards in terms of technology, product design, packaging, health and safety standards. MATRADE has initiated several programs to assist Malaysian companies to equip themselves with knowledge and skills to meet the challenges in the global arena. These include training programs, export excellence awards and client services.

Export Promotion

MATRADE assists Malaysian companies to establish their presence overseas and raise their profiles in foreign markets through different promotional drives including participation in trade missions, specialised marketing missions and international trade fairs. MATRADE also organises business matching programs for Malaysian companies and foreign importers. Being the national agency for trade promotion, MATRADE is often the first reference point for enquiries and visits by foreign importers. The agency's role is to match them with compatible local partners who can offer the products and services they seek.

Trade & Market Information

One of MATRADE's roles is to disseminate timely and relevant information as well as market intelligence to give Malaysian companies the competitive edge in international trade. MATRADE's collection of resources provides Malaysian companies with up-to-date information to improve export opportunities.

Trade Advisory & Support

An entrepreneur and exporter constantly need the most up-to-date advice. The Trade Advisory Services Unit in MATRADE fulfils this demand by providing general, market and product advisory services that are available on the respective countries and products/fields under.

MIDA

MIDA
Positioning Malaysia for Global Competitiveness

The Malaysian Industrial Development Authority (MIDA) is the government's principal agency for the promotion of the manufacturing and services sectors in Malaysia. MIDA assists companies that intend to invest in the manufacturing and services sectors, as well as facilitates the implementation of their projects. The wide range of services provided by MIDA includes providing information on the opportunities for investments, as well as facilitating companies that are looking for joint venture partners. MIDA also assists companies interested in venturing abroad for business opportunities.

To further enhance MIDA's role in assisting investors, senior representatives from key government agencies are stationed at MIDA's headquarters in Kuala Lumpur to advise investors on government policies and procedures. These representatives include officials from the Ministry of Human Resources, Immigration Department, Royal Customs Malaysia, Department of Environment, Tenaga Nasional Berhad and Telekom Malaysia Berhad. MIDA also evaluates the following applications for projects in the manufacturing and its related services sectors:

- Manufacturing licenses
- Tax incentives
- Expatriate posts
- Duty exemptions on raw materials, components, machinery and equipment

Investors are encouraged to discuss their projects/ventures with MIDA officers at MIDA's headquarters in Kuala Lumpur or at its overseas or state offices closest to them. Information on investing can also be obtained from the Investors' Guide section. Investors are also invited to visit MIDA's Business Information Centre (BIC) where published information on investments, trade, licensing, products etc pertaining to the manufacturing and services sectors are available.

Functions of MIDA

- To promote foreign and local investments in the manufacturing and services sectors
- To facilitate cross border investments and assist Malaysian companies to identify markets and investment abroad
- To undertake planning for industrial development in Malaysia
- To recommend policies and strategies on industrial promotion and development to the Ministry of International Trade and Industry
- To evaluate applications for manufacturing licenses and expatriate posts, tax incentives for manufacturing activities, tourism, R&D, training institutions and software development, and duty exemption on raw materials, components and machinery
- To assist companies in the implementation and operation of their projects, and offer assistance through direct consultation and co-operation with the relevant authorities at both the federal and state levels
- To facilitate the exchange of information and co-ordination among institutions engaged in or connected with industrial development
- To facilitate and assist MIDA's role of assisting investors, senior representatives from key agencies are stationed at MIDA's headquarters in Kuala Lumpur to advise investors on government policies and procedures. These representatives include officials from the Department of Labor, Immigration Department, Royal Malaysian Customs, Department of Environment, Tenaga Nasional Berhad and Telekom Malaysia Berhad. MIDA also evaluates the following applications for projects in the manufacturing and its related services sectors:

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Why Malaysia?

Economic Strength

- Natural resources - crude oil, natural gas, tin, timber, palm oil, rubber
- GDP growth - 7.2 percent (2010)
- Gross national savings - 34.3 percent of GNI
- Gold reserves ratio - 7.4 percent
- Unemployment rate - 3.2 percent
- Inflation (CPI) - 1.7 percent
- Export of manufactured goods (2010) - 72.1 percent of total exports

Supportive Government Policies

- Pro-business policies
- Responsive government
- Liberal investment policies
- Attractive tax and other incentives
- Liberalised foreign ownership
- Intellectual property protection

An Educated Workforce

- Talented, young, adaptable and productive workforce
- Multilingual workforce speaking two or three languages, including English
- Comprehensive system of vocational and technical training, including advanced skills' training
- Harmonious industrial relations with minimal man-days lost

Developed Infrastructure

- Network of world-class modern highways and railways
- Well-equipped seaports and airports
- High quality telecommunications network and services
- Fully developed industrial parks, including free industrial zones, technology parks and Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC)
- Advanced MSC Malaysia Cyberlaws and Cybercentres

Vibrant Business Environment

- Market-oriented economy
- Well-developed financial and banking sector, including the Labuan International Financial Exchange
- Wide use of English, especially in business circles and accounting practices based on the British system
- Large local business community with a long history in international business links
- Large foreign investor community with all the major countries (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) having investments in Malaysia - country's total trade and investment in RM1 trillion

Quality of Life

- Friendly and hospitable Malaysians
- Safe and stable multi-ethnic environment
- Excellent housing, modern amenities, good healthcare and medical facilities
- Excellent educational institutions including international schools for expatriate children
- World-class recreational and sports facilities
- Excellent shopping with goods from all over the world

MERDEKA
The 54th Anniversary of
MALAYSIAN INDEPENDENCE
August 31, 2011

BERJAYA
MANILA - PHILIPPINES
HOTEL

About Berjaya Manila Hotel, Philippines

Located in the heart of Makati City, Berjaya Manila Hotel stands in with Manila's bustling central business districts. The hotel houses 179 rooms and suites which are fully furnished to suit guests' needs. Berjaya Manila Hotel brings business travellers to hassle-free meetings and conference in the fast-paced metropolitan city. Only minutes away from the city's notable landmarks and shopping malls, the hotel gives travellers the ideal accessibility for leisure and business. Berjaya Manila Hotel is under the management of Berjaya Hotels & Resorts, a well-known Malaysian hospitality group that operates a range of hotels and resorts across the region.

For inquiries, please contact Tel: +632 750 7500 or email manila_inquiry@berjayahotel.com or visit online www.berjayahotel.com for more information.

AGOSTO mo 'to!

Low fares this August!

DOMESTIC — LiteFARE

₱499	Manila to San Jose (Mindoro) or Virac Cebu to Bacolod or Dumaguete Davao to Cagayan de Oro
₱599	Manila to Caibaoag, Coron (Busuanga), Iloilo, Kalibo or Naga Cebu to Cagayan de Oro, Iloilo, Ozamiz or Tacloban Zamboanga to Tawi-Tawi* NEW!
₱699	Manila to Bacolod, Catarman, Cebu, Legazpi or Tuguegarao Cebu to Surigao
₱799	Manila to Puerto Princesa, Tacloban or Tagbilaran Cebu to Butuan or Davao Davao to Iloilo
₱1,099	Manila to Boracay (Caticlan), Cauayan (Isabela), Dumaguete, Laoag or Roxas Cebu to Boracay (Caticlan), Clark, Dipolog, General Santos, Pagadian, Puerto Princessa, Siargao or Zamboanga Cagayan de Oro to Iloilo* NEW!
₱1,499	Manila to Cagayan de Oro, Davao or Zamboanga Cebu to Legazpi Davao to Zamboanga
₱1,799	Manila to Catabato, General Santos, Ozamiz or Surigao
₱1,999	Manila to Butuan, Dipolog or Pagadian

*Flight starts on Oct. 15, 2011

INTERNATIONAL — LiteFARE

₱999	Clark to Hong Kong or Macau
₱1,499	Manila to Kota Kinabalu
₱1,699	Manila or Clark to Singapore
₱1,999	Manila to Guangzhou or Taipei Cebu to Hong Kong or Singapore
₱2,499	Manila to Ho Chi Minh, Hong Kong or Macau
₱2,999	Manila to Brunei
₱3,499	Manila to Bangkok or Kuala Lumpur Clark to Bangkok
₱3,999	Manila to Beijing, Busan, Incheon, Jakarta or Shanghai Cebu to Busan or Incheon
₱5,999	Manila to Osaka

Quoted fares are one way. Limited availability. Fares are non-refundable. Fares are exclusive of government fees, taxes and fuel surcharges. Flight changes must be made more than 24 hours before scheduled time of departure. At time of booking, pre-purchase your baggage allowance to save time and money at check-in. CAB approved terms and conditions of carriage apply and are available online at http://www.cebupacificair.com/about/pages/terms-and-conditions.html

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